



gc  
977.701  
M76s  
1937061

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION



3 1833 01081 4694











1.78  
Sh 2

2594

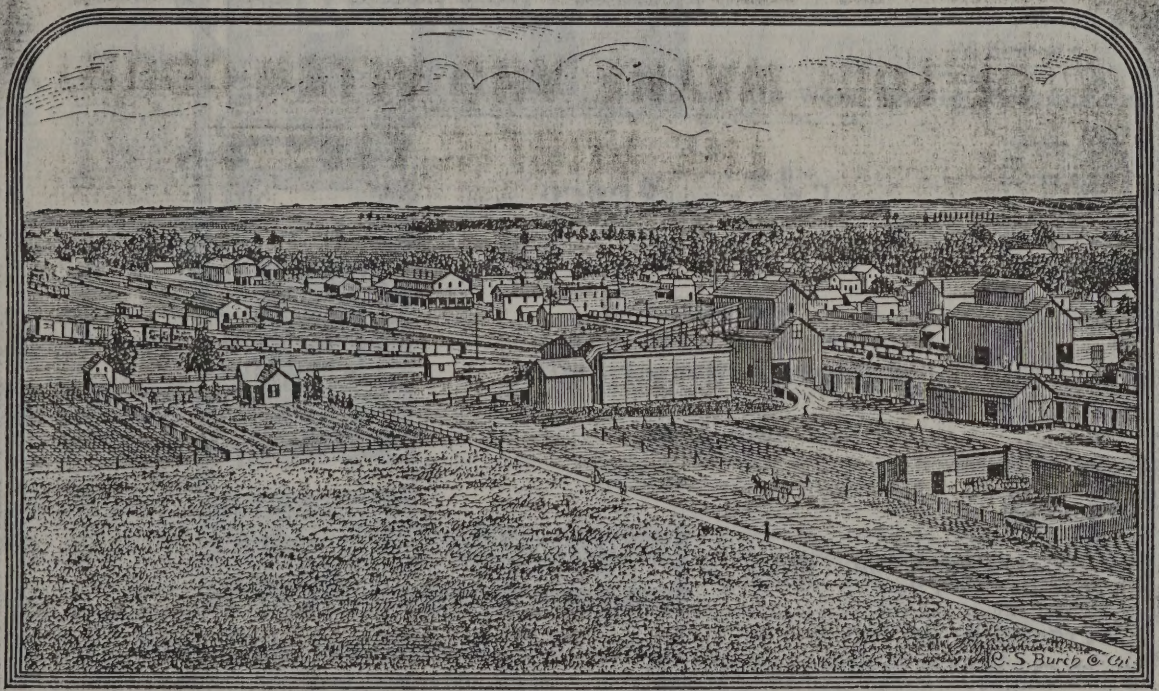
# MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

IOWA.

1.78  
Sh 2

ILLUSTRATED.

THE HEART OF THE BLUE GRASS REGION OF SOUTH-WEST IOWA.



RAILROAD GROUNDS, RED OAK.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
Boards of Trade, Red Oak and Villisca.

By A. B. SHAW.

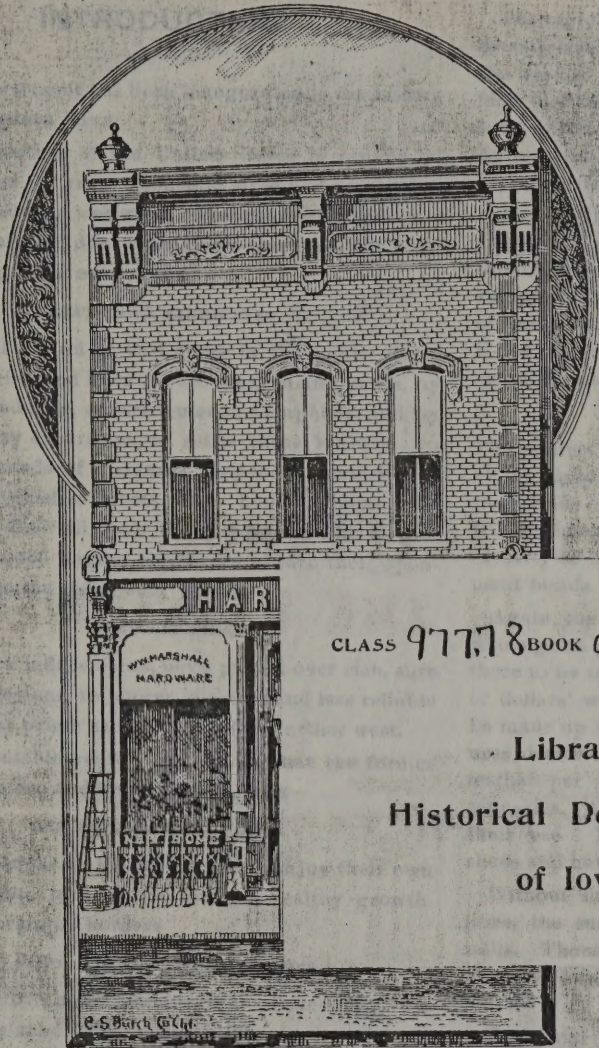
CORNING, IOWA:  
A. B. SHAW PUBLISHING CO.  
1889.

12770









# W. W. MARSHALL, HEAVY AND SHELF HARDWARE.

CARPENTERS' AND BUILDERS' TOOLS,  
FULLER & WARREN COOK STOVES,  
ROCK ISLAND COOK AND HEATING STOVES,  
QUICK MEAL GASOLINE STOVES.

All Kinds of

Tin Work, Roofing, Spouting and Cornices.

CLASS 977.78 BOOK of Sh 2 VOL.

Library  
Historical Department  
of Iowa

TWINE.

nds of

AND PUMPS.

hing Machine,

Sewing Machine.

South Side Square, RED OAK.

## Red Oak Investment Company,

(INCORPORATED,)

CAPITAL, \$200,000.

This Company represents a large amount of foreign capital and offers

## OPTION FARM LOANS!

with the following attractive features:

Six per cent. Interest once a year,  
\$100 Payments. No Insurance,  
Low Commissions.

SPECIAL RATES  
—ON—  
LARGE LOANS.

JOHN HAYES,  
EDW. HAYES,  
C. W. SPALDING.  
Managers.

F. E. LOOMIS,  
ABSTRACTS OF TITLE,  
Montgomery Co. RED OAK, Iowa.

O. P. WORSLEY,  
INSURANCE. RED OAK.

A. CLEMENTS,  
Abstracter, Loan, Real Estate  
AND INSURANCE AGENT,  
RED OAK, IOWA.

O. G. HOWARD'S REAL ESTATE AGENCY,  
CHOICE IMPROVED FARMS,

And City Property In Southwest Iowa a Specialty,

Office: Front Rooms above Postoffice.

Correspondence Solicited.







## INTRODUCTION.

A new movement has been inaugurated in the history of Southwestern Iowa.

The population of the United States is rapidly increasing, and for years a constant stream of emigration has been moving westward. The great railroad lines which penetrated the unoccupied tracts of the West and the large land owners and

### GREAT LAND SYNDICATES

have gained control of vast areas in the newer states and territories, and have moved heaven and earth, by flaming hand-bills, advertisements, pamphlets, and by cheap railway excursions, to settle those regions. In many thousands of instances they have succeeded in unloading valueless tracts upon honest people who have staked their all upon the purchase. The stream of white-covered wagons has begun to turn their openings again to the rising sun. These

### HOME SEEKERS,

lured by such inducements, have passed over rich, sure and fertile regions, to poorer climates and less reliable lands, held at prices as high or higher, further west.

One undeniable reason for this is that the former region—Western and Southwestern Iowa—

### HAS NEVER BEEN BOOMED.

Its thrifty people have been content to enjoy their own prosperity, and to accept a natural, healthy growth. There are within its borders

### NO SYNDICATE OR RAILROAD TRACTS

to be unloaded upon immigrants. Practically, the whole area is subdivided into medium-sized grain and stock farms, for which no unusual demand or artificial market has been created, and which, consequently, are rated at very moderate prices.

But now, that the thinking and investigating man is beginning to

### LOOK BEFORE LEAPING,

and the favorable reputation of the Missouri slope is beginning to attract the attention of Eastern home seekers and investors, a decent respect for the inquiries of desirable citizens, and an acknowledged

### NEED FOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

has led to the issuance of a series of illustrated Hand-books of the counties embraced in it, and to the formation of the

### BLUE GRASS LEAGUE OF SOUTHWEST IOWA.

Since the organization of the league, about three months since, upwards of 5000 letters have been received, asking for information from every state and territory of the Union, and from the continent.

The region will stand the test of the most thorough investigation; and one object of this work is to place the reader in possession of official and accepted facts and data, showing the standing which Southwest Iowa takes in the state, and its rank in the nation. Authorities will be carefully quoted, and investigators are requested to confirm them.

Almost the entire crude product of the region is shipped long distances by rail, to be manufactured, and the manufactured product then shipped back for consumption. Montgomery County alone had 32,197 head of cattle and 64,539 head of hogs in 1885, and yet there is not within her borders, nor within Southwest Iowa, an active establishment for

**1937061**

### PORK OR BEEF PACKING.

The product is shipped to other states, while the bulk of the cured meats placed on sale in our markets bear the brands of Chicago packers. This double waste of freight insures margin enough for any investor, and security of investment as absolute as that of government bonds.

Again, the people pay their tribute of freights on the whole gross product of hides shipped to distant states, there to be tanned. Then thousands upon thousands of dollars' worth of the tanned leather comes back to be made up into boots, shoes and harness. One harness dealer in this vicinity consumes eighteen rolls of leather per month, shipped from Indiana. We want tanneries. All the materials used are found here for their use. More extensive manufactories of boots, shoes and harness are urgently demanded.

Without now entering upon the details of other lines, the same facts exist as to the need of paper mills. Thousands of tons of the best straws go to waste here annually, and the consumption of paper is large.

Fruit and vegetable canning factories would find here a natural location. Sweet corn, tomatoes, peas, beans, asparagus, can be raised at nominal cost and in prolific abundance. It is anomalous, and not to the credit of the region, that such canned foods should be shipped here in great quantities, bearing brands from California to Maine and Maryland. The same is to be said of cherries, plums, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, and all the small fruits. They grow nowhere else on the continent more luxuriantly, or of better quality than here.

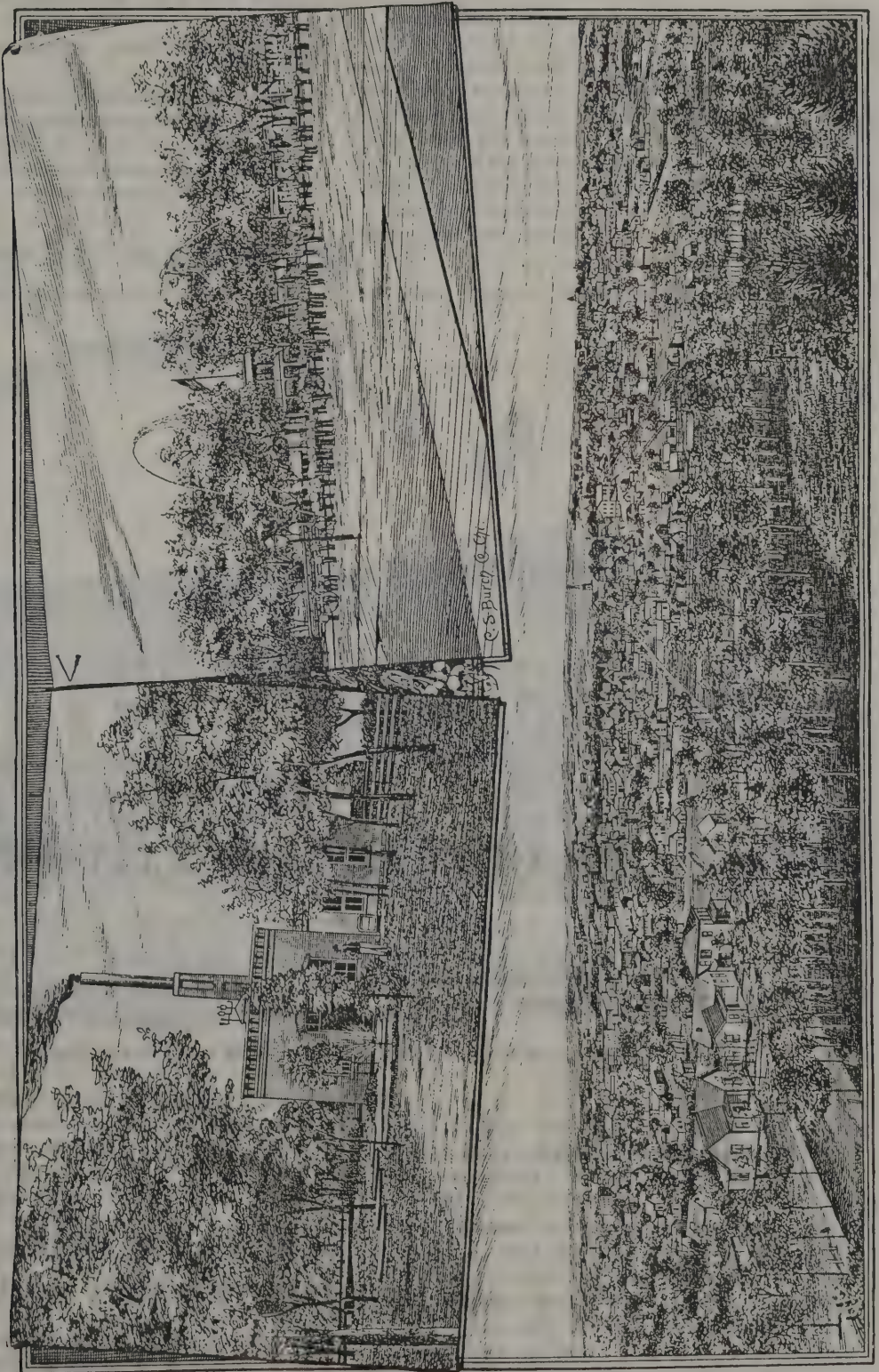
The design of this work and of the movement referred to, is to facilitate

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RESOURCES

to their full natural limit in every direction; to answer inquiries, and to help overcome existing obstacles. The Board of Trade of Red Oak, Mr. O. P. Worsley, Secy., and the Board of Trade of Villisca, Mr. J. S. Boise, Jr., Secy., invite correspondence and visits from all men of capital and enterprise, and men of enterprise without capital, who contemplate investment or settlement.







BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF RED OAK FROM THE SOUTH, WITH VIEW OF WATER WORKS, PARK AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.—FROM PHOTOS BY MORAN, RED OAK.





## IOWA, AS A STATE,

## LEADS IN THE PROCESSION!

As the Best Grain State In the Union, with  
the Greatest Production of Corn, the  
Largest Yield of Oats, the Heaviest  
Growth of All Grains, as shown  
by Official Statistics.

*IOWA, the GREATEST LIVE STOCK STATE*  
OF THE UNION.

## HISTORICAL.

The first European explorers of the vast valley of the Mississippi were the two French Canadian Jesuits, James Marquette and Louis Joliet. From their old mission of St. Mary's, the first settlement in the interior, they set out in exploration of the great river in 1673. With five boatmen they descended the Wisconsin River and the Mississippi, landing about the mouth of the Des Moines River, the site of Keokuk, June 25.

They there heard of a vast plain, which was called by the natives Iowa, meaning

"THE BEAUTIFUL LAND,"

stretching westward to another great river, the Mis-



NORTH SIDE BUSINESS BLOCK, RED OAK.—FROM PHOTO BY MORAN, RED OAK.

Growing More Hogs than any State, big or little; Excelled in Cattle and Horses only by the enormous State of Texas; Produces more Butter than any other State; Grows More Wool per Clip than any Sister State.

**IOWA, the ONLY STATE in the UNION**  
**WITHOUT a STATE DEBT.**

The Lowest Percentage of Crime and Prisoners in the Nation; the Largest Proportion of Persons able to Read and Write; the Lightest Death Rate of all States but two.

souri.

It was not until 1788, however, that Julien Dubuque made the first white settlement in the territory, establishing mining and a trading post on the site of the City of Dubuque.

The region was then included in the great Louisiana territory. In 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte, fearing its loss to England, ceded this vast region to the United States, receiving a consideration of about \$15,000,000.

The Iowa territory was then in possession of the Sacs, Fox, Iowa and Sioux Indians. The memorable Blackhawk war ensued, in which Abraham Lincoln was a lieutenant, and at its conclusion, 1832-3, a treaty for





peaceable possession was concluded, and the way opened for

#### THE SETTLEMENT BY WHITES.

There was not an Oklahoma boom, but settlement was rapid on the eastern borders, and in ten years Iowa was agitating statehood. In 1846,

#### IOWA BECAME A STATE.

Its settlers have veritably found it a beautiful land. There is no man so caloused or dead to the true aesthetics of nature, who at the present season can look forth upon the fair face of Iowa, without involuntary exclamations of the beauty and quiet grandeur of the scene. It is a vast landscape of lakes and rivers, of fertile fields and wooded valleys, of waving grains and grasses, which tell of the inexhaustible stores of wealth beneath.

#### IT IS THE PLACE,

where, in the poetry of an eminent word painter,

"Plenty sits upon the clouds, and drops  
Her bounties in the laps of men."

Here life is young and men are strong, and human hands and brains are building up a free and mighty state. Everywhere—by lake and river, on the stately hillsides, and nestling in the valleys—cities, which have been born in a day, temples of industry, temples of learning, temples of charity, and temples of worship, and the happy homes of a free, industrious and temperate people, stand forth in the sunlight.

#### WHAT IS IOWA'S RANK?

While it was the 29th state to enter the Union, and is but forty-two years old, Iowa has on account of her magnificent climate, soils, topographical and geological features, taken and held the first place in the leading industries of the world's civilization. But it is with the restless activity and healthy competition among our United States that Iowa has taken her rank, and with which she must be judged. Without deprecating the merits or criticising the demerits of other states, it would be self-injustice on our part did we omit to make a plain unvarnished statement of

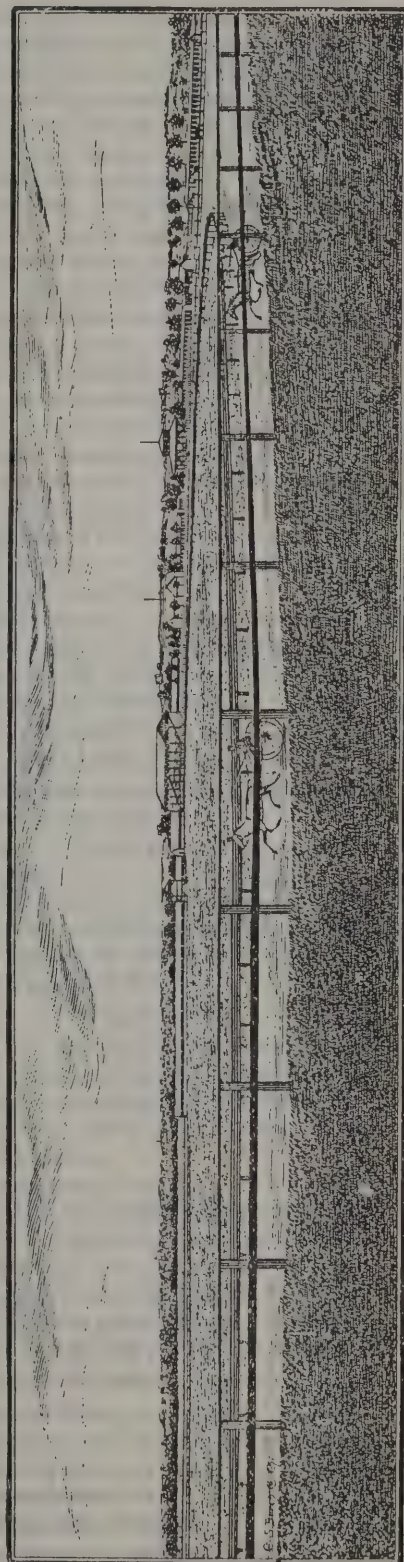
#### OUR RESOURCES, ATTAINMENTS AND POSSIBILITIES,

and to invite and welcome all honest men to share our advantages and help develop them.

Quoting from the last U. S. Census, we find that in proportion to population, the *corn and oats crops* of Iowa led all other states of the Union, in both quality and quantity. [Vide Historical and Comparative Census, Iowa, 1880.] We further find the still more important fact, that, in proportion to the whole population, and also in proportion to the farming population, Iowa has for the past twenty years, in the yield of all kinds of grain, excelled every other state of the Nation. From a statistical pamphlet just issued from the department of the Treasury, some interesting comparisons are obtained of the products of corn for 1888. Iowa raised

321,629,962 BUSHELS OF CORN

in 1888, valued at \$73,974,871—leading every state of the Union. Illinois grew 278,060,000 bushels, Kansas



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF RED OAK FAIR GROUNDS AND DRIVING PARK, FROM THE WEST. RED OAK IN THE DISTANCE.—FROM PHOTOS BY MORAN, RED OAK.





158,000,000, Nebraska 144,000,000, Indiana, 125,000,000. No other state passed the 100,000,000 line. Iowa is the

March 1889, says: "As an illustration of a state almost purely agricultural, we may turn to the State of Iowa.

The acreage is 7,797,000, representing a total product of 321,929,962 bushels. The average price per bushel is 23 cents; commercial value of the crop, \$77,974,891. This is almost equal to the value of all the gold, silver and lead mined in the United States in 1886, which was \$87,535,000. It is almost a larger sum than all the railroads in the United States paid in dividends on stock in that year. It is \$8,000,000 more than the total net earnings of all the National Banks in America, and is considerable more than the total dividends paid by those banks in 1887."

In the production of Barley, Iowa has but three superiors (page 70).

In the quantity of Rye grown Iowa is led by only four states (page 72).

In the growth of Wheat, Iowa acknowledges five states, of greater area, which surpass her (page 66).

In the number of acres of improved land, Iowa is second among the states.

In the matter of all live stock, Iowa is outstripped by only one state, while in number of hogs grown,

#### IOWA LEADS THE UNION.

In the production of butter at factories Iowa stands foremost.

In the clip of wool per sheep, she is also pre-eminent.

In the number of cattle, Iowa is excelled only by the enormous State of Texas, and in the number of horses she is excelled only by Texas and Illinois.

#### NO STATE DEBT.

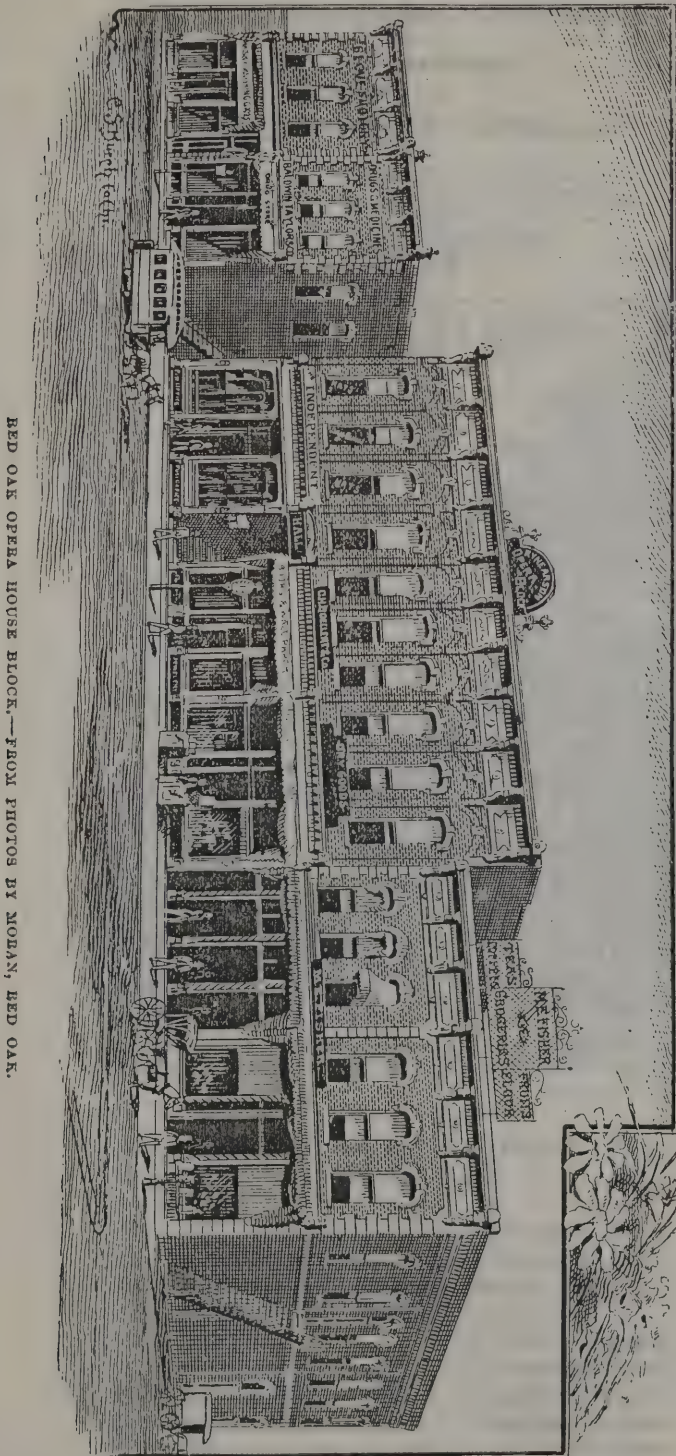
Iowa has this year (June, 1889) paid the last dollar of its interest-bearing debt, bonds or outstanding warrants. At the last census no other state stood in this elevated position.

It has the least number of female prisoners of any state, and at last census had, with one exception, the lowest proportion of both males and females in prison. Doubtless now, since prohibition has been enacted, and the prison rolls of Iowa have fallen off twenty-four per cent., it is the

#### LAST AND LEAST IN CONVICTS.

In respect of the proportion of persons over ten years able to read, and of white persons of fifteen to twenty years able to write, Iowa stands as the brightest star among the galaxy of States.

In proportion of the annual number of deaths to white population, the state has but three superiors. To be brief—



King of Corn producing states.

BETTER THAN GOLD MINES.

Of the corn crop for 1888, the *North American Review*,





In the leading industries of the nation—agriculture and stock-raising; in state prosperity and good government, in the perfection of her educational system, in social and moral environments, in healthfulness and climate,

IOWA STANDS PRE-EMINENT.

## SOUTHWEST IOWA,

The Granary of the State and Nation. The Home of the Blue Grass, the Fattening Grounds of Live Stock, and the Prize-Winning Garden Spot of the Land.

of the state. Foremost in this unprecedented production stands the

NINTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT,

in which Montgomery County is located, yielding more corn than any other Congressional District in the United States, and more than the entire State of New York. It will further be seen that the four counties producing the largest number of bushels of corn to the rural inhabitant are Fremont, Page, Montgomery and Mills. It is a notable fact that these are not scattered here and there over Iowa, but are the

FOUR SOUTHWEST CORNER COUNTIES.

The four southeast counties average 160 bushels to the



BAPTIST CHURCH, RED OAK.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

Its Natural Centre.

Some fair things have been said about Iowa. It has been shown that in the production of grains and live-stock she is unequalled, that in climate, educational and social advantages, no region surpasses her.

Still more may be said of the southwest section of the state, still more may the lines be narrowed about the El Dorado of man's seeking, by the firm, inelastic facts of government statistics. Without entering too much into detail, by reference to pages 282-3 of the Census Report quoted, it will be seen that the 321,629,962 bushels of corn produced in Iowa, come in very irregular proportions from the various counties

rural inhabitant; the four northeast counties average 120 bushels per rural inhabitant; while the four southwest Iowa counties average yield is 470 bushels, 461 bushels, 437 bushels, and 431 bushels, respectively, per rural inhabitant. They hold this same high rank in proportion to acreage. Of the top seven counties in yield of corn to the acre, five are in Southwest Iowa. [Page 252-3.] ✓

STILL MORE REMARKABLE.

In the yield of all kinds of grain, in proportion to population, it has been shown that Iowa leads the Union. In the yield of all kinds of grain, in proportion to population and in proportion to rural population, this same blue grass region of Southwest Iowa leads the state that leads the Union. While many





counties produce 7,000, 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of all kinds of grain to the rural inhabitant, Page County

rural inhabitant. The four counties of next highest production are contiguous to these! (Pages 256-7.)

These are solid, undeniable facts, and the most pertinent facts that should come before the farmer, or stock-grower who proposes to change his location. It is not an Utopia, nor the home of the fowl that lays golden eggs; it is not the place where food and raiment will come without labor; but it is the region of greatest fertility and productiveness in the United States.

The

**WONDERFUL BLUE GRASS GROWTH** of the comparatively small area comprising Southwest Iowa, is worthy of special mention in this connection. It is that part of the state where blue grass is indigenous, coming in, where the sod is pastured, without being sown by the hand of man, perpetuating itself to the exclusion of other and inferior grasses. The Blue Grass League has a test of membership, and admits "any county where the growth of blue grass has shortened the grain-feeding period to less than 65 days per year." The area includes about thirteen thus favored counties.

**WHAT ABOUT BLUE GRASS.**

It is a prolific and persistent grass, almost a grain, that attains its highest development and perfection in the fertile soil and salubrious climate of Southwest Iowa.

It is the hardiest as it is the most nutritious of grasses, being the first to color the surface of mother earth with its blue-green coat of velvet in the spring, while it affords the last fresh mouthful in the winter. Horses and cattle especially love it and thrive on it.

It is the most succulent and the greatest bone and muscle producing of grasses, the growth and possession of which has made Kentucky famous, and has sent her trotting and running stock to the quarter, half and finish quicker and handier than any other section of America.

It is the grass, so fat in the elements required by stock, that has enabled Kentucky not only to lead her sister states in the rearing of horses, unrivalled for suppleness, symmetry, fleetness and endurance, but that has made it famous as the home of the "Kentucky Shorthorns"—the envy of stock breeders of all localities and the pride of the nation. It is the pioneer plant



WEST SIDE BUSINESS BLOCK, LEED OAK.

produces 29,118 pounds, Mills yields 26,907, and Montgomery 26,668 pounds, or an average of 14 tons to each





food of spring. While trees, shrubs and plants are yet wrapped in the icy bonds of winter the hardy blue grass, emboldened by the first warm rays of spring sunshine, shoots its tiny blades upward to herald the coming season of renewed life, affording pasturage for sheep, cattle and horses, several weeks before the lazier timothy and clover begin to grow.

But while this is a strong feature of the blue grass, its chief value is its unexcelled qualities for

#### WINTER PASTURES.

Our stock raiser and farmers are coming to lay by

a good range of blue grass for late fall and winter pasturage. Blessed as the farmers of this county are with all kinds of grasses, both tame and wild, it is not unusual for them to turn the stock onto the CLOVER AND TIMOTHY in the late summer, letting the blue grass recuperate and grow into a thick mat of rich food for the winter. When left to grow the stalks ordinarily attain a length of two to three feet, and falling down, the ground is covered with a heavy crop of sweet, sun-cured hay. To this the farmer drives his stock, and, with some improvised shelter from the rude blasts of winter, in a



PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES OF RED OAK.

Presbyterian Church.  
Third Ward School.  
First Ward School.

Christian Church.  
Second Ward School.  
Congregational Church.

United Presbyterian Church.  
High School,  
Methodist Church.





climate where there is rarely enough snow to prevent them feeding on the luscious grass beneath, the horses, cattle and sheep luxuriate. They come off from such

is almost self-operating.



RED OAK BUTTER AND EGG DEPOT.

pastures in the spring, sleek and fat and in good condition. Experience has fairly demonstrated that owing to the favorable conditions and wonderful vitality of blue grass, it retains nearly all its strength and nutritive properties until the succeeding spring, when the new grass re-appears. In fact, in this region, valuable horses are wintered entirely on this pasture and frequently command a higher selling price than stall-fed horses. Come and see our fair land for yourself and familiarize yourself with the methods of farming in the heart of the blue grass region of Southern Iowa.

#### A NATURAL LIVE STOCK REGION.

From what has preceded it may well be inferred that this is a natural stock-growing country; and it is one that is rapidly assuming gigantic proportions, and is winning for itself a wide-spread and enviable reputation. It is the first and most natural manufacturing process for this region, suggesting, as it does, the true

#### SOLUTION OF THE FREIGHT PROBLEM.

A few years since the great industry of this slope was the raising and shipping of cereals. But the long haul on the railroads took nearly half the crop as its toll for carrying so bulky a product to market. Now the farmers almost universally

#### CONDENSE THEIR FREIGHTS

by feeding the grains up into live-stock, which is driven instead of being hauled to the shipping point. There is no branch of farming so profitable, and no class of men in Iowa are acquiring wealth so rapidly as the live, progressive stock raisers.

#### ANIMAL HEALTH

is here well-nigh perfect, and the stock-raising process

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY,

THE KEYSTONE COUNTY OF THE BLUE GRASS ARCH—  
FOREMOST IN NATURAL ADVANTAGES, PROGRESS  
AND PUSH.

Montgomery was established as a county in 1851, being taken from the provisional county of Pottawattomie. It was attached during 1853 to Adams County, as a civil township, for revenue, election and judicial purposes. The first election was held at the house of Amos Lowe, in the present Jackson Township, Montgomery County. The county was named in honor of Gen. Richard Montgomery, who fell at the assault on Quebec in 1775. It is one county removed from the south and west boundaries of the state. It has now a population of 18,000, and a voting population of 3,600. It is three townships wide, north and south, by four long.

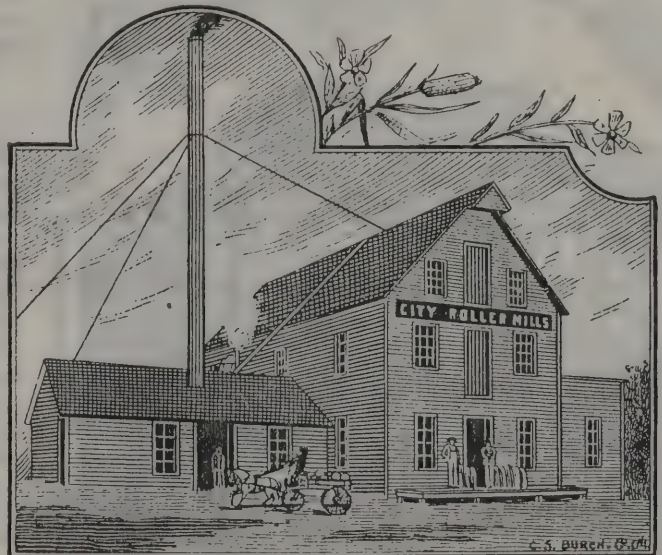
The issuance of this hand-book just before the Federal census, renders it difficult to procure recent statistics. The growth during the past decade has been very rapid. There was more

#### LIVE STOCK SHIPPED AND SOLD

out of Montgomery County in 1888 than existed within the county, all told, in 1880. The total valuation of live stock in 1880 was \$1,093,865.

The following statement shows the shipments of live stock from Montgomery County in 1888:

Kind.	Number.	Value.
Horses .....	420	\$ 63,000.00
Cattle .....	8,316	415,800.00
Hogs .....	55,620	709,155.00



CITY ROLLER MILLS OF J. A. HYSHAM.

Sheep .....	900	4,500.00
Mules .....	20	3,000.00
Total .....	65,276	\$1,195,455.00





Montgomery County had but a total of 60,866 hogs in 1880. It sent to market 55,620 in 1888.

little grain is now shipped, though the various railroad stations are provided with good elevators. The farmers very widely feed the crop of their own raising, thus securing a double profit.

#### WHEAT.

This is another staple of the county, though the low price prevailing for sometime, together with the degeneration of the old time "club" wheat seed, has decreased the average acreage for some years. The introduction of the hardier seeds of the north, and the innovation of winter-wheat growing, coupled with more intelligent treatment of the crop, is now rapidly strengthening this necessary crop, and increasing its popularity.

Mr. Henry Binns, a large farmer of South Montgomery, had experimented largely in wheat for the past ten years, and finds the crop a sure and remunerative one when planted on land which has been seeded down. The rotation of crops is a necessary feature of success, in all branches of agriculture. The county raised 285,308 bushels of wheat in 1880—more than the combined crop of six New England States. There are



BUSINESS BLOCK OF A. C. HINCHMAN, RED OAK.

THE COUNTY HAD IN 1880 14,436 cattle (including 5,186 milch cows). It had in 1885, in cattle 32,221 head and 839 head of horses. It packed, salted and sold fresh, 499,500 pounds of beef and pork, valued at \$42,075. In 1885, the value of stock killed and sold was \$870,948. The value of farms in 1880 was \$5,326,378; of farm products, \$1,295,844; of farm utensils, \$284,533. There were 202,010 acres improved and 27,183 unimproved.

#### THE LEADING CROP

of cereals is, of course, king corn. It is here developed in its finest quality—the first prize for the best corn shown at the Centennial, 1876, having been awarded to Mr. Fred Murrah of this county. Montgomery County grew in 1875 1,441,467 bushels of corn, and in 1880, from 98,161 acres, 4,314,280 bushels, or 44 bushels to the acre, everything counted; or, Montgomery County, of 24 square miles, grew more corn that year than

#### SIX STATES AND EIGHT TERRITORIES—

Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Colorado, Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Dist. Columbia, though the latter had an acreage of 167,815 acres.

The average of 44 bushels, above referred to, includes the crop of the indifferent farmers and indifferent land. The fore-handed farmer gets a yield averaging 60 bushels to the acre. But

in the county. Morton's mills, in the northeast part of



MASONIC BLOCK, RED OAK.—FROM PHOTO BY MORAN.

#### NINE FLOURING MILLS





the county; Clark & Brown's Mills, two miles north of Red Oak; Baumhover's Mills, one mile south; Johnson's Mills, eight miles north; Van Horn's Mills, northeast of Villisca; the City Roller Mills, Red Oak; and Villisca Roller Mills; Arlington Mills, north of Villisca, and Smith's Mills, at Milford. Of these, all are water power mills, excepting the City Roller Mills, Red Oak.

#### THE OATS CROP

is the second in importance in Montgomery County, yielding 45 to 65 bushels per acre, according to the soil and its preparation. The county grew only 500,075 bushels in 1885, the last census, but this crop has had a marked increase in favor since that date.

grasses, it goes without saying that here the hay crop is one of the most important, and that it has an interesting future. Southwest Iowa has attracted more attention the past year in the hay markets of the country than ever before. Through the organization of the Blue Grass League, and the advertising of our resources incident to it, this region has shipped to the St. Louis, Memphis, Nashville, and other markets,

#### FIVE THOUSAND TONS OF HAY.

The prevailing local price is \$5.00 a ton, and from two to three tons are harvested from an acre. It is not generally recognized, but nevertheless true, that the hay crop ranks fourth in value in Iowa agriculture, being



FIRST NATIONAL BANK, RED OAK.—FROM PHOTO BY MORAN.

#### BARLEY, BUCKWHEAT AND RYE

are the side lines which many live farmers carry, and they are found to be sure and profitable. There were 6,586 bushels of barley grown in 1885, 46,561 bushels of rye, and 2,065 bushels of buckwheat.

#### BROOM CORN

grows here so readily and so luxuriantly as to suggest the building up of extensive broom factories. Brooms of the best quality are made in the county, and only some men of experience and push are required to make it a profitable industry. The Swedish population are skilled in the growth and preparation of this crop, and have made it a specialty here for years. From what has been said of the rich and rapid growth of all the

surpassed by only those of corn, horses and cattle. More than 100,000 tons were raised in 1888 in this county. Timothy and clover are the leading variety, though millet and Hungarian grass are also grown.

#### FLAX STRAW AND SEED.

No crop is better adapted to this region than flax. 20,730 bushels were grown in 1880, and herein lies another suggestion for the

#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY.

Manufactories for the utilization of the thousands of tons of flax straw, and other straws that are annually going to waste in this county—flax mills, paper mills, paper pulp factories, oil mills, rope and twine factories—all will thrive here if anywhere on the face of earth.





## SWEETS TO THE SWEET.

Why should so fair a land import any article of agriculture so prominent as its sugar? The growth of sorghum or amber cane is as natural to this slope as that of grass, and is rapidly solving the sugar problem. As early as 1880, 26,600 gallons of sorghum syrup were made here, and the crop for the past year is estimated at 148,000 gallons. It furnishes a pure

luxuriantly here. None of the careful nursing and nurturing of plants incident to some regions, is needed here. The seed is placed in the ground, and nature does the rest.

Iowa leads the nation in the potato production, and Southwest Iowa leads the State. Potatoes from this locality have recently been sent to represent Iowa in the great International Exposition at Paris, 1889. In

sweet potatoes, too, the yield is large and the tubers sweet and mealy.

## MARKET GARDENING

for the cities tributary to this region is a feasible and profitable industry.

## LIVE STOCK INTERESTS.

## THE LAND OF THE SHORTHORN AND TROTTER HORSE.

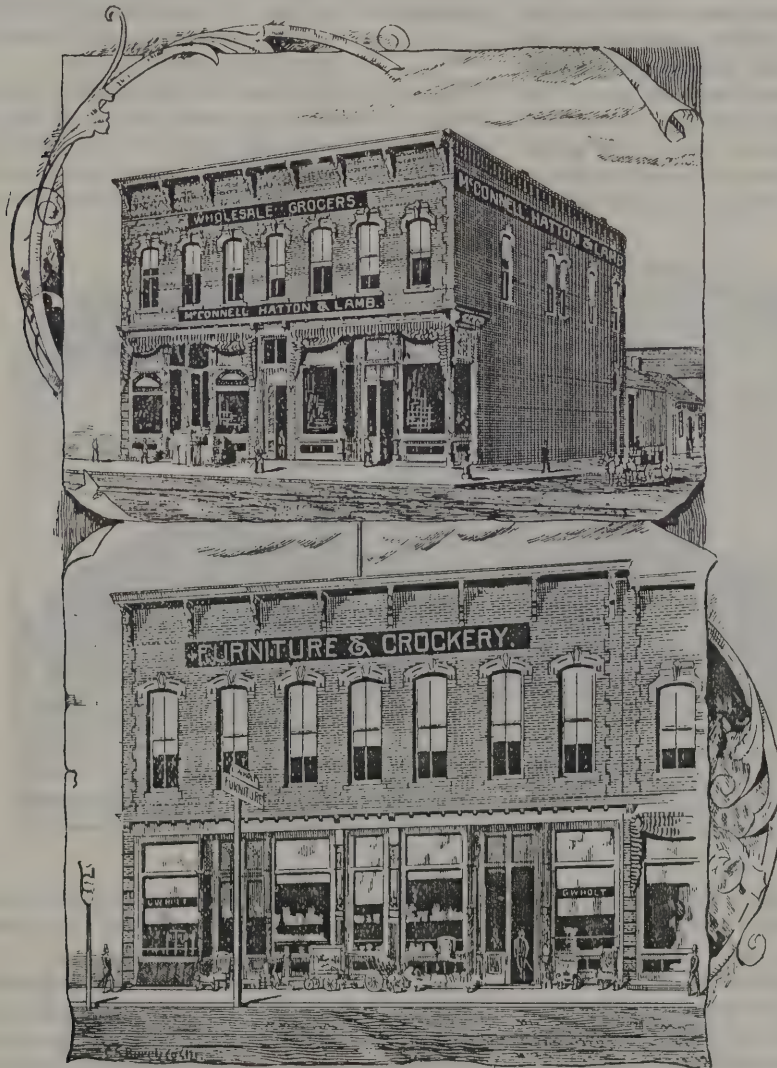
Montgomery County is situated, then, in the heart of a region growing more abundantly than any other area of the United States, the staple food for live stock. It is but a natural sequence that such a strip of country should soon begin to show visible evidences of that wealth and profusion in her live stock product. Time has been required to grade up the native stock, but the

SEEKERS FOR BETTER STOCK soon found leaders in Montgomery County, and to-day she stands without a peer in the whole quarter of the state for the reputation of her herds of pure-bred stock and for the speed of her standard bred trotters.

## THE SHORTHORNS.

As early as 1865, Isaac West brought to his farm a few miles south of Villisca, from Galesburg, the foundation of a herd of Shorthorn cattle. He with his brother, Amos P. West, con-

tinued this herd for many years. In 1873, Robert L. Tubbs bought from Messrs. West, for his farm in Washington Township, the foundation of a herd of Shorthorns, which he developed until it numbered upwards of 100 head. Soon after, J. R. Westrope, established a similar herd in Douglas Township. Many of these herds have passed into other hands, but the good seed was sown and the breeding of thoroughbred Shorthorns given a strong impetus. As early as the fall of



BUSINESS BLOCK OF A. MC CONNELL. BUSINESS BLOCK OF G. W. HOLT.  
(From Photo by Moran.)

palatable syrup, which requires the utmost care in boiling to prevent it becoming a mass of sugar. The development of the sorghum product under national experts gives confidence that at an early period Montgomery County will be shipping out sugar instead of shipping in.

All forms of

## GARDEN PRODUCTION,

found anywhere in the United States, are produced





1874, Wayne Stennett, of Sherman Township, and H. N. Moore bought the foundation of a herd—four cows and two bulls—which has since developed in the hands of Mr. Stennett into probably the

#### LARGEST SHORTHORN HERD OF IOWA.

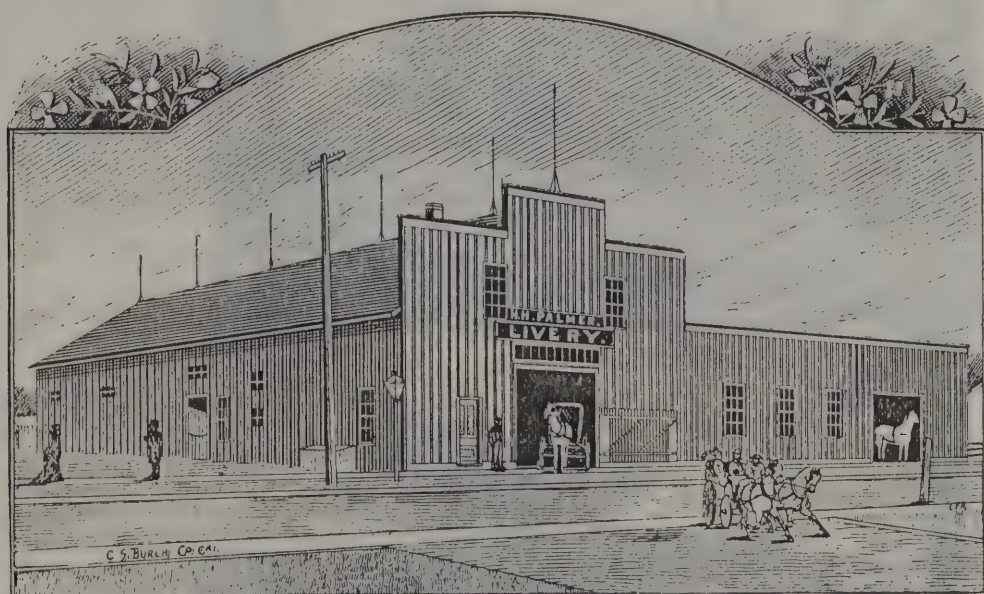
The next year, Mr. Stennett and P. P. Johnson made another purchase which was added to the herd, now owned by Mr. Wayne Stennett & Sons, F. M. and F. L. Stennett. This herd has been developed and strengthened until it now numbers 174 head of thoroughbred Shorthorns. It includes the

#### BIGGEST BULL IN THE STATE,

Des Moines Bates, a Lady Elizabeth bull, bred by C. C. Nourse, of Des Moines, and is by 6th Wild Eyes Duke, 41,286, 7 years old. He now tips the beam at 3,180 pounds, and is a magnificent specimen of his genus. Messrs. Stennett have bred for size and beef, and their

1889, just passed, scattered forty-four Shorthorns to various portions of the West—the average price on male animals being \$180.

In 1882, Thos. Wall, of the Excelsior Stock farm, Elliott, bought the entire well-known Eureka herd of T. D. Tyler, Ottumwa, consisting of 30 head. The foundation cows were imported Victoria and Ruby, and the herd numbered this spring 115 head. Mr. Wall has sold 40 bulls and seven females at private sale. He has just held his first public sale, which was a pronounced success. Twenty bulls averaged \$99.00, and 12 females averaged \$85.00. The head of the herd has been a Waterloo Duchess, with Kirklevington top, and he has now added 7th "Baronet of Linwood," a young Mary, with imported Baron Victor top. This animal as a yearling has taken six first prizes, including Illinois and Iowa State Fairs. With such an animal



H. H. PALMER'S LIVERY STABLE, RED OAK.

herd, shown on page 31, of this work, would attract attention at any of the fine stock shows.

#### THE PLATTER AND HAYES HERDS.

These herds, at Red Oak, have attracted attention in this and adjoining states, enjoying a wide reputation for individual merit and high breeding. As early as 1875, Mr. C. C. Platter founded his widely known Shorthorn herd, and in 1880, that of Mr. John Hayes was established. In June, 1882, they held their first joint sale of pure-bred Shorthorns and have maintained that custom annually to the present date, selling in the aggregate 461 registered animals. The history of pure-bred cattle raising in the State of Iowa offers no parallel of an unbroken record of ten consecutive sales. The earlier sales were of course experimental, but so fairly were they conducted and so satisfactory the individuals sold, that each successive sale has surpassed its predecessor in interest and results. The sale of

as this at the head, the future of the herd is assured. Another interesting feature of Mr. Wall's farm is a bearing orchard of 450 trees, set out nineteen years ago. In this we observed three rows of 45 trees each, in which there was but one dead tree. All the remainder have been bearing trees for twelve consecutive years. A view of the farm is shown on page 33, it is a beautiful tract of 380 acres, seeded to blue grass, timothy and clover, with running water, artificial and natural groves.

Other very extensive breeders have established herds in the county, until more than

#### SIX HUNDRED SHORTHORNS

can be counted within its limits. Among the largest breeders are Messrs. C. C. Platter, John Hayes, F. L., F. M. and Wayne Stennett, Thos. Wall, P. P. Johnson, J. M. Taylor estate, Justis Clark, W. S. Hoar of Coburg, A. T. Turney, C. S. Merriman of Villisca, F. G. Bean of Morton's Mills, John Bryson, Villisca, and Augustus





## Smith of Washington Township.

## IN POLLED ANGUS,

Messrs. Powell and Byrkit have a very fine herd, which has taken leading prizes at many contests in Southwest Iowa. They have 27 head of thoroughbreds (including 8 imported cows), and 50 grades. The herd is headed by imp. Garfield, No. 2119, and the families represented are the Erica's, Kinnochtry Favorite's, Drummin Beauty's, Magnet's and Kinnaird Fanny's. Mr. W. D. Reynolds of Frankfort Township has also established a herd of these black and hornless cattle.

## IN HEREFORDS

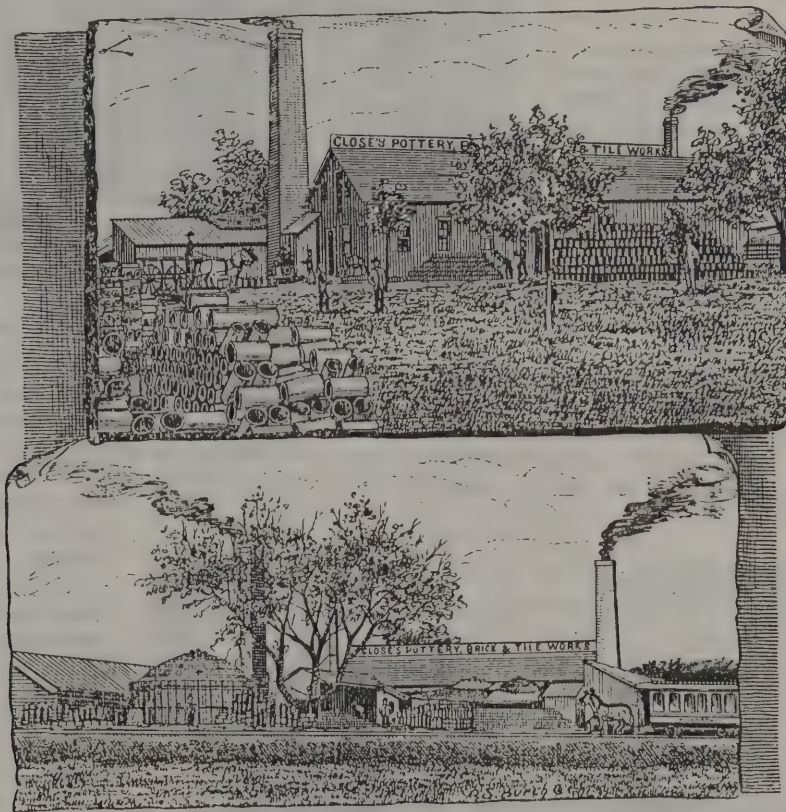
Messrs. Leach and Clark are making a specialty.

adding to it, in 1886 and 1888, ten more imported animals. He has now 19 thoroughbreds and 75 high grades. J. W. Finley, of Frankfort Township, has also established a herd of five head.

If Montgomery had no other source for pride and a sentiment of supremacy, she might well hold up her head in contemplation of her rank as a grower of the best of all domestic animals,

## FINE HORSES.

The region is new, and cannot boast so proud a reputation in this respect as the blue grass region of Kentucky. But, mark the words of prophecy, ten years hence there will be equally famous for fine cattle



CLOSE'S POTTERY, BRICK AND TILE WORKS, RED OAK.—FROM PHOTO BY MORAN.

They have been careful in establishing the herd to secure fine individuals, and their enterprise is appreciated by many local breeders.

## THE DAINTY JERSEY

also finds admirers and growers in Mr. W. J. Hysham, Wm. Daugherty, and Dr. A. O. Oberlin. Through the business push of the former a large and fine herd was introduced into the county some years since, and many a farmer's wife blesses him for it as she cares for the liberal volumes of rich milk given by them.

## OF THE GALLOWAYS,

J. F. Moates, of Washington Township, a member of the Board of County Supervisors, has a fine herd, shown in this book. He founded the herd in 1884,

and fine horses, the blue grass region of Iowa! Already the keen eye of the discriminating horse-buyer for the Eastern cities has found the spot, and no casual visitor can loiter along one of our villages without being attracted by the large number of

## TRIM AND SHAPELY STEPPERS

which speed along its streets. For many years the breeding was almost wholly of the heavy draft horses—the Percheron-Norman and the Clydesdale being the favorites. The mass of the horse breeding is still of these lines, but very early in the agricultural history of the county the “Bashaw” and the “Tramp” blood was introduced, and the local lovers of fine horse-flesh have been constantly strengthening the stock.





Two years since,  
REDWALD, 6178,  
was bought from the estate of the late Tom. Potter for

and Sunshine (2:29 $\frac{3}{4}$ ). He has also *Phlox*, own sister to Sunshine, and own sister in blood to I. J. S. and Trampoline. He has also *Adinda*, own sister to Mabel A. (2:23 $\frac{1}{4}$ ). He has two other standard bred mares of similar breeding.

Mr. John Hayes has four similar, standard bred mares, including *Birthday*, by Robert McGregor (2:17 $\frac{1}{2}$ ), dam, own sister to Tramp. He has also an own sister to I. J. S. Two of these have fillies by Redwald, one a filly by Patronage (full brother to Patron, five-year-old record 2:14 $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

C. C. Platter, Dr. Rogers, P. P. Clark, H. H. Palmer and others, members of the club, have some fine standard bred mares.

#### RIVER PARK FARM.

This horse-breeding farm of A. T. Turney & Son, located 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest, is rapidly and widely becoming known as the centre of some of the best bred and best individual trotting horses in Iowa. Guelph, 2486, by Princeps, is a perfect

seal brown, has a record of 2:30 (trial, 2:28), bred by Veech, Louisville, 1882. He took first place at Keokuk, Ottumwa, Oskaloosa, Red Oak, Shenandoah and Corning last season. His endurance is shown by his six heats at Creston, four of them in 2:30 and the

\$5,000 by a breeding club, composed of twenty leading business men and farmers of Montgomery County—Mr. Edward Hayes, President; B. B. Clark, Secretary. Redwald is a beautiful four-year-old bay stallion, by Lord Russell (full brother to Maud S, 2:08 $\frac{3}{4}$ ), 1st dam Primrose (dam of Princeps, sire of Trinket, 2:14, and nineteen others in the 2:30 list). Redwald was sent to Kentucky last fall to winter, and his promise of speed was so great that Mr. Alexander, the breeder, offered to train him a year without expense. He furnished, as a substitute,

#### ROMANTIKER,

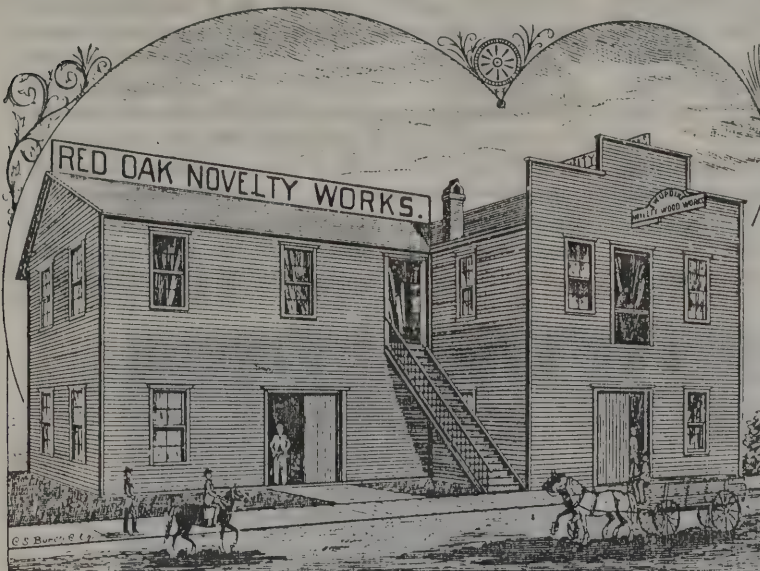
a standard horse of similar breeding, which the Redwald Club have since bought. Romantiker is by Lord Russell; first dam Novel, by Princeps.

Many highly bred standard brood mares are owned by different members of the club.

Mr. Edward Hayes has *Tablet*, 7092, a three-year-old dark chestnut, by Tramp; dam, own sister to Kirkwood 2:24. He has also *Golden Hair*, own sister to Tramp S. (2:26 $\frac{3}{4}$ ) and Tramp Jr. (2:30); also full sister in blood to Capt. Seth (2:30) and Travilla, pacer (2:24 $\frac{3}{4}$ ). He has also *Delphine*, own sister to I. J. S. (2:30), and own sister in blood to Trampoline (2:23)

slowest one in 2:30 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

*Union Medium*, 4182, trial at three years old 2:40 $\frac{1}{4}$ ,



RED OAK NOVELTY WOOD WORKS.



T. D. THOMAS' FRUIT FARM.—FROM PHOTO BY MORAN.





half brother to Maxy Cob (2:13¼), by Happy Medium, sire of 42 in 2:30 class. He is a bright bay, snip and star, white pasterns behind, four years old. His dam was Camilla, by C. M. Clay, jr. 2:30¼. He is a true type of his sire and will be fitted for the grand circuit this fall. Mr. Turney has also *Monte Carlos*, 9947, a Wilkes horse, and one of the most fashionably bred horses in the country; *Richelieu*, trial quarter in 40 sec. at two years old, full brother to Young Princeps; *Dr. Young*, by Guelph, dam by Jim Crow the favorite pacer. He has also French Draft and Shire stallions.

Mr. H. A. Prentiss also has a fine Wilkes horse, Wilkes Chief, and there are scattered through the country many trotting horses that would merit mention.

The extensive meadows of succulent grasses, the mild climate and the abundant supply of stock water, conspire to a generous flow of milk, rich in the butter and cheese-making qualities. The state already rivals New York and Illinois in this line, the product for 1888 summing up \$15,000,000. In 1880, at the last census, this county produced 359,528 pounds of butter and 7,138 pounds of cheese. No

#### CREAMERIES AND CHEESE FACTORIES

were then established, but since, several have been placed in successful operation. There are now creameries located at Villisca, Red Oak and Milford.

In 1886, Mr. T. D. Thomas, organized a stock company to build a



ECLIPSE RESTAURANT, RED OAK, BROMLEY & HALL, PROPRIETORS.

#### THE SWINE PRODUCT.

The simple statement of the figures of shipment for 1888, from this county, 55,620 hogs, speaks volumes. It is more than existed, *in toto*, in three states and four territories, at last census. Accompanying the cattle herds, the hog crop is one of a very large margin of clear profit, and can be conducted on small capital with quick returns. The greatest profit is made on hogs marketed at ten months old. The prevailing breeds are Poland China and Berkshire; the majority of the herds having long been headed by pure-bred animals, which give them a high rank in quality.

Ere the reader has followed the story of Montgomery County thus far it will have occurred to him that this is a

NATURAL DAIRYING REGION.

#### CHEESE FACTORY

in the north-west corner township, Lincoln, and began the manufacture of cheese that fall. The factory has been running every summer since. Last year, 1888, there were received 398,148 pounds of milk, making 39,428 pounds of cheese, which was sold for \$3,344.64. Probably still more will be made the coming season. They make nothing but a full cream cheese.

#### FINE SHEEP-GROWING

is a not uncommon branch of farming, and one that can be conducted with a clear profit. The wool clip, averaging nine pounds per head, makes a good margin aside from the mutton sales. The sheep thrive well here, and grow rapidly. There are no sheep diseases incident to the region.





## POULTRY RAISING

and the egg crop are to the farmer's wives among the most important. The \$5,000,000 distributed among them in Iowa last year went far, not only toward the supply of pin money, but of the household as well. There are plenty of pure-bred fowls of all the standard varieties scattered over the county. There were in Red Oak alone 229,950 dozen eggs handled in 1888, at one packing house, and have already shipped up to July 1st, in 1889, 249,720 dozen.

## THE APIARY.

Before the coming of the white man the bees had found cozy homes in the hollow trunks of trees, and many a toothsome morsel has been ruthlessly stolen from them by the strolling hunter of bee trees. Scat-

fragrance of the wild fruit blossoms, and where mature in great profusion, crops of wild grapes, crab apples, wild plums, wild cherries, wild blackberries, wild strawberries and wild gooseberries. Naught but intelligent selection and care of trees and vines is required, to bring forth abundant rewards in all the crops of cultivated fruits natural to this region. Iowa has taken the

## FIRST PREMIUMS AT NATIONAL AND STATE EXHIBITS

for the finest and greatest variety of apples, for which the state society holds the medals to attest.

## AT THE CENTENNIAL,

Iowa received the highest award on an exhibit of 2,000 plates of apples, including 342 varieties; likewise, at



RESIDENCE OF HON. SMITH MOPHERSON, RED OAK.

tered over Montgomery County to-day in nearly every homestead yard, are from a dozen to a hundred hives of the busy bee. The product is ample to supply every table with the luxury. The prevailing price is from 12 to 15 cents per pound.

## THE FISH.

As this is written, a citizen who has been regaling himself with a half day's sport, goes by with a beautiful string of fish, including a fine buffalo weighing 17 pounds. This is above the average, but the streams of the county abound in fine suckers, channel cat, buffalo, red-horse, sun-fish, bass and other varieties.

## HORTICULTURAL INTERESTS.

## FRUIT, FLOWERS AND FORESTRY.

It is useless to debate the fruit raising capabilities in a land where the very forests are loaded with the

the American Pomological Convention, 1889, and at the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial, New Orleans, 1885. At the latter, Chas. Chickering, of this county, received 1st premium on Roman Beauties, and Thos. E. Ellet received the 1st place on another variety. Southern Iowa is the better fruit region, and the majority of premiums on fruit at the State Association meetings have come to a few counties in southwestern Iowa—Adams, Taylor, Mills and Montgomery.

Our horticulturists have surmounted the difficulties of orcharding; have cultivated the varieties adapted to this climate (which is more like Missouri than most of Iowa), and the western slope has risen in place until it acknowledges no superior.

Apples are abundant at 50 cents a bushel, in season, and of the best quality and size. Not less than 50,000 bushels were grown in this county in 1888. There were 153,152 fruit trees in 1885.





## SMALL FRUITS.

No written description can convey to the distant reader a fair conception of the prolific response, which all small fruit vines and bushes give to ordinary care and culture. At this writing the bloom of the blackberry patches make them resemble a cotton-field. It is picturesque and attractive, though the realization of the full fruitage is yet more gratifying. It is estimated that a patch of two acres on the fruit farm of T. D. Thomas, near Red Oak, shown in this book, will yield this year two hundred bushels. An experienced grower here is authority for the statement that you can raise as many bushels of blackberries to the acre, as you can of corn. They sell readily at \$3.00 a bushel. This ought to have a suggestion in it to the man who

annually.

## FLOWERS AND GARDENS.

If any one has an idea, on visiting this region, that he would see only the crude frontier farms and farm yards, it would be a revelation to him to be dropped down anywhere within the borders of Montgomery County and discover for himself the real advancement made in this line; it is true that the parks of Eastern cities have been given more extensive cultivation, but nowhere will all the native or adopted flowering plants, roses, vines and ornamental shrubs grow more abundantly or luxuriantly; and, in many portions of the towns and of the country, landscape gardening has been carried to a perfection rarely surpassed in the older portions of the East. From one rose garden at



RESIDENCE OF JOHN HAYES, RED OAK.

contemplates fruit farming or fruit canning. The same thrift and abundance of product can be truthfully recorded of the strawberry, raspberry, gooseberry, while plums, cherries, siberian and transcendent crabs are almost as thick as the leaves, in the fruiting season. Special mention should be made of the

## GRAPES AND VINEYARDS.

All the standard and newly improved varieties of grapes have been tested here with perfect satisfaction. There are no blights or grape diseases. It is a crop, as sure as the season, and of the finest quality. Grapes are raised so abundantly that the price ranges as low as three and five cents a pound. Each well regulated farm has its orchard and its vineyard. Many hundred gallons of native wines, of a palatable quality, are made

the home of one of Villisca's old and honored citizens the writer was presented with a huge bouquet of Jacqueminot, Queen of the Prairie, Moss, and other roses, the blossoms of which were perfect, and which would have brought an important sum of money in any of the Eastern cities. Ordinary and intelligent care will give the most satisfactory results in the growth of all kinds of flowering plants and shrubs. At the same home a remarkably large and perfect specimen of the clematis, covered sixty square feet of the front veranda with one solid sheet of brilliant purple bloom, so dense as to obscure all signs of leaves.

## FOREST AND SHADE TREES.

It is less than fifty years since the prediction was general throughout both East and West, that while the





wooded valleys of the great Western prairies might furnish permanent and profitable farming lands, the wide stretches of prairie must remain untamed by the hand of man; it was thought that the terrific storms and blizzards which swept over them would render them uninhabitable, and that proximity to timber would be necessary to procure fuel and wood for building purposes. This timid feeling caused the earlier settlers to cling to the skirts of the wooded tracts, but the fallacy of that theory has long since been exploded; not only have they found the prairie uplands to be equally desirable for agriculture, but it has proven that all kinds of native trees grow thriftily upon all parts of this region, and the farmers, taking advantage of this fact, have planted and grow up about them, as beauti-

may depend upon his crop of timber as surely as on that of corn. Among the native trees, named in the order of relative abundance, are the white hickory, black walnut, shell-bark hickory, elms, bass wood, wild cherry, white ash, black oak, cottonwood and others. In addition, hard and soft maples, the pines, evergreens, larches, catalpas and birchs, grow thriftily when planted. First-class dry hard wood for fuel sells from four to five dollars a cord. Fencing is largely done with native posts, though the cedar that comes down the Mississippi, is very cheap, barbed wire is largely used, but by far the best, most durable and most beautiful of fencing is afforded by the

LIVE HEDGE OF OSAGE ORANGE,

of which few Iowa counties have a larger quantity or



RESIDENCE OF H. C. HOUGHTON, RED OAK.  
(From Photo by Moran.)

ful, thrifty and attractive groves, of both hard and soft woods, as can be found anywhere in America. The home site on almost every farm of the county is marked by the presence of one of these planted groves; in many instances, trees planted within the last fifteen to thirty years have outgrown the capacity of the planters to span them with both arms. Experience has fairly shown the origin of the prairies to have been not from the incapacity of all of this soil to grow forest trees, but from the prevalence of annual prairie fires, which destroyed the seed germs distributed by the winds. These being stopped by advent of the settlers, the natural forests and the planted groves have been annually spreading over increased areas. It is, in fact, a feasible proposition for the farmer to grow his own fuel crop and timber for fencing and kindred uses. He

better quality, than Montgomery. A drive through the county reveals the fact that it is fairly cob-webbed with well-trimmed and well-kept hedges. No recent statistics are at hand, but in 1885 there were 236,000 rods of such hedge in the county.

#### SURFACE FEATURES.

Iowa is known as a Prairie State, yet there is so much diversity in its surface, that a person who has visited one portion cannot have a fair conception of the characteristics, the lay of the land, of other portions. Some parts of Iowa may be criticised as lying too flat and level, and other portions are too broken and rolling for the best results in farming, but it is generally conceded—as the standing which the county takes in the State would indicate—that the surface of Montgomery is subject to neither of these objections.





The topography of the county forms one vast ideal park with an acreage suitable for farming, not excelled by any county of similar size in the United States.

#### ITS ALTITUDE.

The irregular deposit of soil, or drift and bluff formations, left by the grinding-off process of the glaciers on the underlying geological formations have left a ridge or water-shed running northwest and southeast through Western Iowa, in a general parallel to the Missouri River. There is a gradual rise from Burlington on the Mississippi River to Creston, two hundred miles west, of eight hundred feet; there is then a gradual descent to Red Oak and on to the Missouri River, of about two hundred feet, being about 5 ft. 7 in. to the mile; leaving Montgomery County with a general altitude of six hundred feet above the Mississippi, and eleven hundred above the sea level. From the divide,

geological formation, left what is called the drift deposit. This forms all the soil of Iowa except the alluvium of the river bottoms, and the bluff deposits of the Missouri valley. If the underlying rocks were granites and marbles, the soil produced would be hard and unyielding, small in quantity and uneven in texture, with too much gravel, too many pebbles and boulders for the greatest fertility. But a casual examination of the rocky strata underlying the State reveals the fact that they are soft and friable, there is none of the refractory granite or the enduring marble; the soil is consequently fine, permeable, with many soluble parts; with silicates among the coal measures to give warmth and mellowness, but not so much sand as to cause that barrenness which prevails a few hundred miles west. These inexhaustible mines of drift or soil are practically the same all the way through, and it has been found where fifty



RESIDENCE OF DR. F. M. HIETT, RED OAK.

(From Photo by Moran.)

southwest to the Missouri River, including the territory commonly called the Blue Grass region of Southwestern Iowa, the climate and soil differ somewhat from that of Iowa in general, and partake more of the character of Northwestern Missouri and Northeastern Kansas.

#### SOILS.

The supremacy of Iowa in agricultural production has not been an accidental adventitious event, its remarkable crops have come from a remarkable soil, and as stated by a high authority it may well be doubted whether there is an equal area of the earth's surface that contains proportionably so little untillable land, or whose soil has so high a degree of average fertility. It has been reported by the State geologist that ninety-five per cent. of the surface of Iowa is tillable land.

#### DRIFT SOIL.

The sediment left by the glaciers which passed over this region grinding off the protruding points of the

or a hundred feet of hill top have been sliced off in leveling the surface for streets or roads, that only a little stirring up of the soil there found, to the sunlight and the atmosphere, and the addition of the germs of decayed vegetation are required, and the tract yields as fine a vegetable product as any surface soil.

Another characteristic of this soil is its capacity for holding moisture; it will

STAND A GREATER DROUTH OR RAINFALL, without affecting crops, than any other known region; there are neither hard-pan nor gravelly beds of sub-soil to run off the water, so that for fifty to two hundred feet down, the soil is practically uniform—of a fine spongy drift which acts as a never failing reservoir. In times of drouth the water rises to the surface by capillary attraction as the oil rises in the lamp wick. The surface of the land is sufficiently rolling and the ground so firm that excess of moisture readily runs off through the





many natural channels.

#### THE BLUFF DEPOSIT.

What has been said of the drift soil will apply to all

what distinct reputation which they have attained in crops. The material is perfectly uniform in color and composition even where it is two hundred feet thick.

It is of an ash color, slightly yellowish, except when it has come in contact with sunlight, atmosphere and the humus of decayed vegetation, when it is perceptibly darkened in color. It is very fine and silicious, but not sandy. At the surface it forms excellent soil, and if taken from the depth of two hundred feet from the surface it proves to be equally fertile; although a very fine soil in texture it is not sticky or plastic, and does not bake or crack in drying. An analysis of it shows silica, 82.15 per cent.; iron, 3.89 per cent.; alumina, .67 per cent.; carbonate of lime, 9.66 per cent. Without being sticky or plastic it possesses a peculiar property of standing securely at a steep angle.

#### THE WATER SUPPLY

is ample and of the best quality; there is not a farm in the county but upon which drinking waters can

be secured from wells at an average depth of 30 feet. The farms of the county are liberally supplied with wind mills which pump the water into reservoirs and tanks for the use of stock, though in a majority of cases it is less expensively provided. For example, on the farm

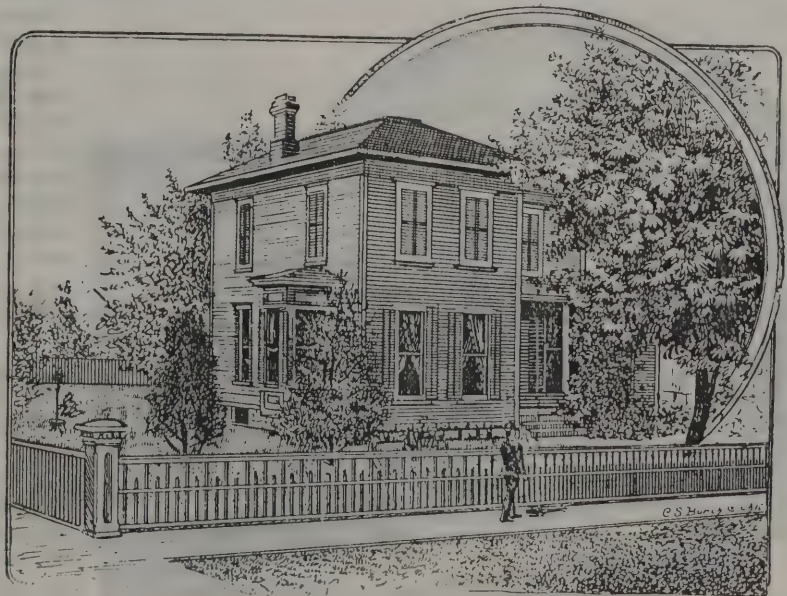
Iowa, excepting the Missouri valley where the drift soil is covered by a later deposit known as the bluff soil; this varies in thickness from two hundred feet on the banks of the Missouri River tapering out to a few feet in Eastern Montgomery County; the retreating glaciers which formed the drift deposit left a broad depression or lake-like expansion in the Missouri River Valley. This depression became rapidly filled by the sediment from the muddy Missouri which its waters gave up as their impetuous current was checked by the stiller waters of the lake. The depression was gradually filled in this way, and the narrowing borders of the river gave an increased impetus to the stream which finally cut for itself a new and narrower channel. This deposit is practically homogeneous with the present sediment deposits of the Missouri River. It is very distinct in character from any other formation in the state; but, says Prof. White, the eminent geologist, "it is very similar to that deposit in the valley of the Rhine known as the loess," the most fertile region of the old world.

Its presence in Montgomery and the corner counties of Southwestern Iowa sufficiently accounts for the some-

of Mr. C. T. Ford and many others, a spring part way up the hillside is tapped by an iron pipe so as to keep



RESIDENCE OF DR. ROGERS, RED OAK.  
(From Photo by Moran.)



RESIDENCE OF THOS. H. GRIFFITH, RED OAK.  
(From Photo by Moran.)





constantly full a large trough for the use of stock. On the majority of farms, springs and creeks give an abundant supply of water for stock purposes. The

is to be adopted. One cottage of ten rooms is already completed. The half dozen strong springs supply sufficient water to fill a lake, of two to three acres, which is now being constructed. The exceptionally attractive location of this sanitarium, and the fine grove in which it is situated, make it desirable not only for health-seekers but as a summer pleasure resort, and insure its growing prosperity. Experienced physicians and nurses, from one of the best sanitariums in the land, will be in attendance after its opening in October.

#### THE RAIN-FALL

of this region has been carefully recorded for a number of years by the State Weather Bureau, and has for the past seven years averaged 40.17 inches per annum. This has been distributed rather unevenly through the year; the lightest precipitation being during the winter months of December, January, February and March, and heaviest during May and June. There has never been a general crop failure, nor one of those blighting drouths which have spread a pall over the parched and calcined countries west.

#### THE WAGON ROADS.

During the preparation of this work many residents and admirers of the region have asked that special

drinking water is pure, tasteless and absolutely free from all disagreeable and unhealthy elements. Some springs found in the county along the East Nishnabotna possess marked health-giving properties, being rich in iron and other desirable minerals. On one of these, located on the land of Mr. Hamilton White, in South Red Oak, a large sanitarium is now being constructed. It is to be regretted that its progress is not yet sufficient that an illustration of it can be made. But it is confidently expected that it will attain as great a popularity as the mineral springs in Northern Missouri and Arkansas. The water has been pronounced by chemists to contain the same constituent elements as those of the springs referred to, and quantities of it are now procured in jugs and kegs for use by invalids.

The Medical and Surgical Sanitarium Co., organized on the basis of \$100,000 capital, is now constructing the first wing of the sanitarium, a three-story brick and frame structure, 36 x 48 feet in size, overlooking the city and the beautiful valley. The main building is to be 100 x 40 feet in size, and for further room the cottage system



RESIDENCE OF DR. J. B. HATTON, RED OAK.  
(From Photo by Moran.)



RESIDENCE OF JOHN HATSWELL, RED OAK.  
(From Photo by Moran.)





attention be called to the quality of the wagon roads. There are no marshes, swamps or bogs in the county, and the fine loamy soil packs as firmly under travel as

a race-course, so that long drives in the country in almost any direction form no small source of recreation and pleasure.

#### THE BRIDGES

of the county are another source of pride to its citizens. All the larger ones, spanning the numerous rivers and creeks, are iron truss bridges, and the smaller ones are built substantially of heavy timbers.

#### THE CLIMATE.

There is an impression abroad in some

portions of the country that Iowa has an especially rugged climate, and is subject to blizzards, tornadoes and cyclones. While such storms have swept over portions of Iowa, the experience of the past five years has demonstrated the fact that the Eastern States have suffered even more from such calamities than the West. It is also naturally true that Northern Iowa should have a more severe climate than the southern portion of the state. Let it be remembered that Montgomery County lies exactly on the 41st parallel of latitude, the same as that of Wheeling, West Virginia, and but one degree from that of Maryland. Southwestern Iowa is nearer the latitude of Kentucky and Virginia than it is to that of New York or any other of the Eastern States. We have a good, healthy winter, which sets in in earnest between Christmas and New Year's and which passes away early in March, having performed for the farmer a valuable and even necessary operation—the freezing and thawing and consequent pulverization of the soil. It is to be doubted if this operation of nature is not a necessary one to the highest fertility of the soil. The visit of Jack Frost is long and thorough enough to search out and destroy all malarial or miasmatic germs and purify the atmosphere, and invigorate animal life as only good sharp freezing can do. Spring breaks forth from its icy bonds the latter part of March, rehabilitat-

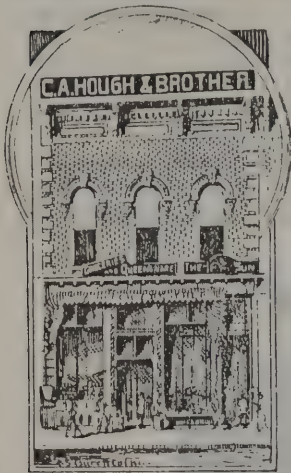
ing the earth with a new life and verdure. The spring season in Southwest Iowa is perfect. It is an inspiration of renewed vigor to the invalid, and a glimpse into the Arcadian fields and the Daphnean groves to the visitor from whatever clime he may come. The beautiful valleys of the Nishnabotna and the Nodaway inspire the loftiest sentiments of admiration, and have been pronounced by traveled persons to equal or surpass any of the landscape beauties of classic Italy or picturesque France. The average mean daily temperature for the past twelve years has been: June, 70.5 degrees; July, 76.3; August, 74.1; Sept. 64.3; October, 63; Nov., 36.7; Dec., 25.8; Jan., 20.4; Feby., 26.9; March, 35.4; April, 50; May, 62 degrees.

#### THE WINDS.

There is rarely a perfectly quiet day during the summer months. It is equally rare that the wind blows disagreeably strong. Slight breezes prevail during most of the days of the year, quieting down with the setting of the sun. Montgomery County has never suffered the presence of a cyclone, and is apparently out of the natural wind-belt through which those monsters operate.

#### HEALTHFULNESS.

As a man in good health has but slight appreciation of its blessings, so in a region free from epidemics or diseases of climatic or regional causes, the residents give but little thought to its healthfulness. There being no swamps, marshes or other sources of miasma, and being situated so far from the oceans that its winds are dry, we have a gradual increase of population from



HOUGH'S BLOCK, RED OAK.



RESIDENCE OF DR. J. W. MANKER, RED OAK.

(From Photo by Moran.)

people who have worn out other climates, and who here find a place of refuge. A glance at the official records shows a remarkably small percentage of deaths,





and an analysis of those records brings out the fact that fifty per cent. of the deaths were of persons in infancy and old age. The following is a synopsis of the past eight years:

	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888
Births.....	270	202	112	114	117	91
Deaths.....	53	31	39	24	62	45
Marriages.....	103	191	162	147	85	181

#### GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS.

In order to understand the stone formations underlying the State of Iowa, it is necessary to have clearly fixed in the mind the six important divisions of rocks

through a strip of counties to the northeast of the sixteen corner counties named, throughout the length of the Des Moines River valley. These true coal-bearing measures are therefore covered at this point, Montgomery County, to a depth of from six hundred to eight hundred feet.

#### THE UPPER COAL MEASURES.

There is one bed of coal in the upper coal measures of from eighteen to twenty inches in thickness, lying at a depth of from fifty to one hundred feet below the surface. It occupies a somewhat triangular space so



STOCK FARM OF C. G. ATWOOD, NEAR RED OAK.

(From Photo by Moran.)

which underlie it. They are, on top, immediately under the drift or soil, the upper coal measures, middle and lower coal measures, sub-carboniferous strata, Devonian system or age of fishes, upper silurian, and beneath all the lower silurian. These do not lie level, but at a slant or angle, tipping towards the southwest. This causes each stratum to crop out or come to the surface, their edges showing underneath the soil, one after the other, from the lower silurian which crops out in the northeastern corner of the state, down to the upper coal measures which cover and crop out over the sixteen southwest Iowa counties. The upper coal measures and sub-carboniferous are not, generally speaking, coal-bearing strata - nearly all the coal being found in the middle coal measures, which crop out

far as known, with one corner near Briscoe, Adams County, the second corner forty miles south on the state line, the third corner being near the southwest corner of Montgomery County. The bed is exposed only in the valley of the Nodaway River—in Adams, Taylor, Page, and on the eastern border of Montgomery, Counties. Fifteen mines are in operation, supplying almost all the entire fuel consumption for the territory referred to.

#### THE LOWER COAL BEDS.

It is usually of little practical importance what becomes of a formation after it passes beneath the surface to a considerable depth; coal however, is of such primary importance in the development of the resources and industries natural to this region, that per-





sons skilled in the mining of coal may here find an opportunity for its development that will prove unusually profitable. The existence of these important coal beds, which crop out fifty miles to the northeast in beds of from six to eight feet, is as well established as any geological fact. The State geologist in his report of the state survey on page 259, of Vol. 1, says:

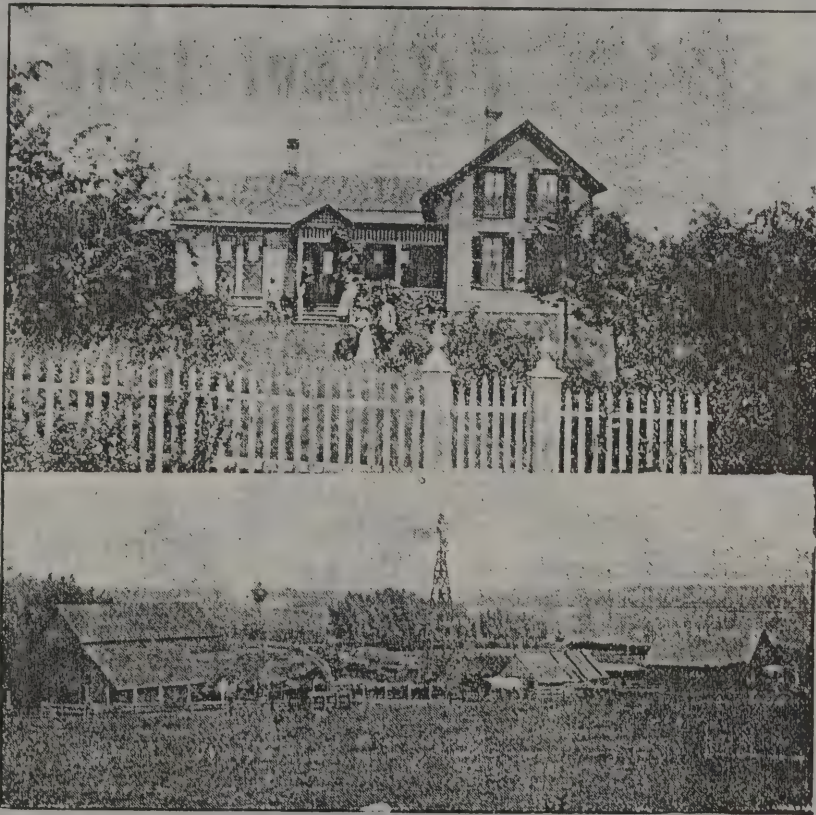
"It may be regarded as certain that the lower coal measures which together contain nearly all the coal, extend beneath the unproductive coal measures through the western and southwestern parts of the state. The question of greatest importance is, how far beneath the surface do the beds of coal probably lie. \* \* \* From examinations thus far made, it is estimated that a shaft of one thousand feet in depth will pass through all the

which engravings are shown in this work.

In addition, this branch of industry affords an abundance of the best quality of

#### BUILDING LIME.

Kilns were established on a small scale at an early day in the county, and buildings constructed with their product have stood the test of time. Here is an industry which the progenitors of this work wish to bring to the attention of men who are skilled in lime-kilning on an extensive scale. The product now used in this entire region is shipped more than three hundred miles from Illinois. A manufacturer of lime on an extensive scale in Montgomery County would have a



LONGVIEW STOCK FARM OF J. M. TAYLOR ESTATE, NEAR RED OAK.

(From Photo by Moran.)

coal measure strata, productive and unproductive. Therefore it is reasonable that a shaft sunk for coal at any point in Southwestern Iowa will be attended with success before reaching a depth so great as that at which coal is profitably mined in other countries."

#### LIMESTONE.

While many portions of Western Iowa feel the absence of a good building stone, exposures of limestone along both the Nishnabotna and Nodaway Rivers, affords an abundance of the best quality of limestone for building purposes with the minimum difficulty of quarrying it. Some of the largest and most substantial residences, stables and other buildings of the county are constructed of this cut stone. Notably those of Mr. B. F. Runnels and Wayne Stennett, of

practical guarantee of a good safe profit upon the entire capacity of his plant. The Board of Trade of Red Oak or Villisca will be glad to correspond with parties contemplating any such enterprise.

#### BUILDING SAND.

This necessary element in the construction of buildings so difficult to be obtained of good quality in many parts of the West, is here found in ample quantities for all uses, and can be obtained at nominal cost.

### SOCIAL ADVANTAGES.

#### EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

(By PROF. J. F. SAYLOR.)

No better index of a country's wealth and progress is needed than a glance at the status of her schools. It





will not only give a measure of the present, but an excellent forecast for the future, as it points out the wealth and progress of any section, so does it stand

Montgomery County takes special pride in calling the attention of the home-seeker to this test of a country's worth; she invites the critical eye of the traveler



PLEASANT RIDGE FARM, RICHARD HODGSON, PROPRIETOR.

with equal exactness in measuring the intelligence and pride of the people.

A barren soil, starved crops, poor schools, and a listless ignorant people are inseparable associations. With equal propriety it may be said that overflowing gran-

to take an inventory of these matters while in transit across her borders, feeling that this brief view must convince anyone that he is in a community of thrift, intelligence and good schools. Coming from the East, Villisca's imposing high school structure in the center,



RIVER PARK FARM OF A. T. TURNEY, RED OAK.

eries, a fertile soil, efficient schools and an intelligent and independent manhood, are associations as closely related and observable.

and the Ward building on her western border, are the first to tell the story of education. They will not fail to emphasize Villisca's loyalty and wisdom in supplying

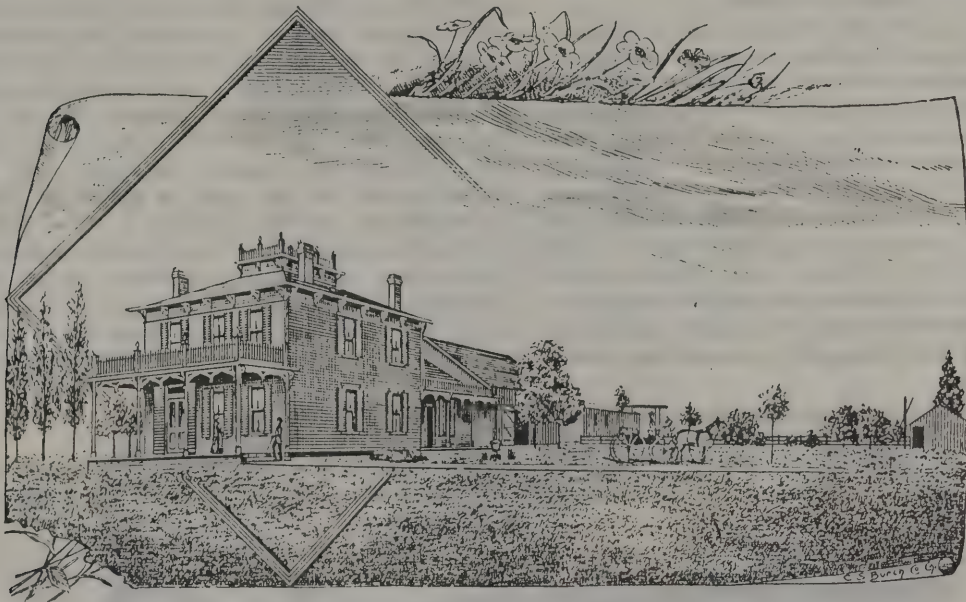




superior educational facilities for her youth. The enterprising town of Stanton comes next, and perched upon a slightly position, stands its beautiful temple of

the value of public schools.

Red Oak next invites inspection. Her three costly and commodious ward buildings are presented as the



FARM RESIDENCE OF LEMUEL EWING, HAWTHORNE.

learning, the pride of her citizens and a delight to the eyes of tourists. The observer cannot pass on without feeling that our Scandinavian citizens fully appreciate

silent witnesses to the forethought and wisdom of the city in building so substantially. Linked with these, and completing the system, standing on its command-



BLUE GRASS STOCK FARM OF G. W. RUCHANAN, WEST OF RED OAK.



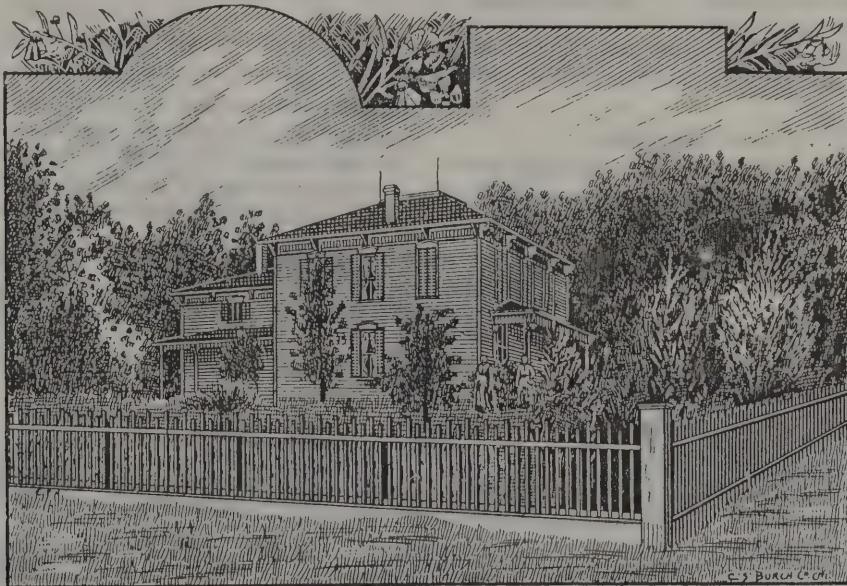


ing site, is a most admirable and well ordered high school building. Our rural districts present evidences just as convincing and no less pleasing. The eye can see comfortable school buildings, dotting the rolling landscape, two miles apart in every direction. No one coming to Montgomery County need for a moment feel any hesitancy about either the rural or town facilities for the education of their children. Inside the circumference of a circle of 100 miles radius, no less than twenty-four colleges and academies are found, all within a range of one hundred miles of Red Oak. A teacher's training school and an institute are annually held for the purpose of instructing teachers in their profession. Our high schools, academies, normal school and colleges are constantly adding to our ranks men and women of disciplined minds and able scholarship. The saloon, the enemy of

good frame buildings, including every item of comfort and progress. The open and frank way is to invite the home-seeker to come and see for himself.

#### CHURCH FACILITIES.

As will be seen from our engravings, not only are our cities and villages supplied with substantial houses of worship of nearly all the more prominent denominations, but scattered through the rural townships the active work of church extension has organized each neighborhood into societies of the various denominations, with their attendant Sabbath schools. Where the church edifices have not yet been erected, services are held in the ever present school-houses. There is no neighborhood of the county where the people can excuse themselves from religious worship for want of an opportunity. In fact, the Peter Cartwrights and other pioneer missionaries of the gospel, like the railroads,



FARM RESIDENCE OF JONAS HECKERT, GARFIELD TOWNSHIP.

the schools, could not stem the tide of this progressive march, and is no longer found within our borders; thus the youth of our county are being surrounded by the most admirable influences, and to the enquirer when these facts become known, it is no longer a matter of surprise or doubt to learn that our illiteracy amounts to only one-third of one per cent.

Our county is composed of twelve townships, and requires a corps of a little more than one hundred and fifty teachers and principals. Each rural township of thirty-six sections is divided into nine school districts, making four sections to each district. This system, including the city schools, cost about \$100,000 per year, all told. The value of school buildings is \$136,000. In the towns the buildings are brick, heated by steam or hot air, and provided with apparatus, libraries and all the appointments belonging to the best ordered school buildings. Our rural districts are provided with

almost preceded and opened the way for settlement and civilization. The newcomer to Montgomery County will find a church home and a church welcome on his arrival.

#### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT.

In nearly all directions the condition of public improvements compares favorably with the counties of the older states.

#### A NEW SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR COURT-HOUSE.

On July 16, 1889, the Board of Supervisors submitted to the voters a proposition to erect a county court house, not to exceed \$75,000 in cost. The proposition carried, and the board will proceed at once toward the construction of the edifice. It will be substantial, commodious, and of modern design and architecture.

The county is not only

#### FREE FROM DEBT,

but has about \$27,000 in the treasury; so that the





court house will be built without appreciable increase of taxation. All other public improvements—bridges, highways, schools, infirmary, jail, etc., have been constructed in a permanent manner, so that taxes are light and not burdensome. The county jail, a fine two-story brick building, was completed in 1875. The County Poor Farm and Infirmary, including one hundred and fifty-five acres, was bought for \$5,000, and a building costing \$2,800, erected in 1877. In 1880 the building for insane patients was constructed. The average number of inmates is sixteen; of insane patients, six. The farm is nearly self-sustaining.

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

is a prosperous society, which will hold its eleventh annual meeting this season. It owns a fine fair ground, just west of Red Oak, of which a birds-eye view is shown in this book. Its annual fairs have an increasing interest and value, not only to our farmers and

#### CITIES AND TOWNS.

Montgomery County contains twelve cities, towns and post offices, thus affording readily accessible market and mail facilities through every part of the county. No farmer can be so situated that he is more than four or five miles from the nearest post office and market.

THE C. B. & Q. R. R., whose vast system permeates so much of the western territory of the Mississippi valley, crosses the county east and west, and is tapped by four stations, while the north and south branches cross that road at right

angles at Red Oak; these add three more stations. Another branch of the C. B. & Q. runs south from Villisca.

#### MARKETING FACILITIES.

From the circular map shown, the central position of the county with reference to the great markets of the West will be readily seen; no county of Iowa is more



RESIDENCE OF MR. ED. KRETCHMER, COBURG.



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF FARM OF S. T. RUNNELS, HAWTHORNE, HIS RESIDENCE, RIGHT;  
RESIDENCE OF WM. DAUGHERTY, LEFT.

stock raisers, but as an exposition of all county productions as well. Its secretary is Gideon Blackstone, Red Oak.

desirably situated with reference to so many of the larger Western markets. Each station is provided with good elevators, stock yards, express, telegraph





and telephone facilities.

#### FOREIGN BORN POPULATION.

There are but two distinctly marked foreign settlements in the county—that of the Swedish people in and about Stanton, midway between Red Oak and Villisca, and the Welsh people of Lincoln Township. The township of Scott, including Stanton (a prosperous railroad station of about four hundred population), is almost wholly made up of Swedes. They are intelligent, thrifty and desirable citizens in every way. They have established good stores, a bank, schools, churches and other village institutions, and a

perous, with excellent reputation for meeting their obligations. They engage in general stock and grain farming, while horse-raising and dairying are being introduced to a considerable extent. They maintain a Welsh Congregational Church and Sabbath school, and have a good church edifice, costing \$2,000. They have also a Calvinistic Welsh Church and Sabbath school, with a good church building; also a Lutheran Swedish Church Society and a very fine United Presbyterian Church. Their post office, in the center of the township, is called Wales.

ELLIOTT,



FAIRVIEW PLACE—FARM HOME OF B. F. RUNNELS, HAWTHORNE.

#### SWEDISH ORPHANS' HOME.

This is under the management of the State Conference of the Swedish Lutheran Church. It contains one hundred and sixty acres of land and suitable buildings. A weekly newspaper, the *Stanton Call*, is well sustained by them.

#### THE WELSH COLONY

of Lincoln Township, in the northwestern corner of the county, was settled in 1870-71. There are 65 Welsh families in the township, and all, with a very few exceptions, own their farms; they, too, are among our most worthy citizens, being of quiet disposition and pros-

on the North Branch Railroad, in Sherman Township, twelve miles from Red Oak, was settled in 1879, and is now a live growing town of 400 population. It has a weekly newspaper, the *Elliott Graphic*, a good bank, the Bank of Elliott, of which a view is shown herein, and the usual complement of mercantile houses, including that of S. N. Maine, which is also shown among our illustrations. Elliott has Christian, Methodist and Congregational societies, with good buildings and flourishing Sabbath schools. The town has also excellent schools. Between Elliott and Red Oak, in Sherman Township, also is STENNETT, having a railroad station,





post office, store, etc. From its large shipments of stone are made from the widely known Stennett quarries.

HAWTHORNE is the first station six miles west of Red Oak, on the main line of the railroad, and lies nestled down in one of the prettiest valleys of the county. As one first looks upon it from the eminence east of the village, with the broad undulating valley stretching out as far as the eye can see, the grass and grain fields alternating with those of corn, the whole broken in outline by the grove-fringed streams, he cannot fail

mansard roof, costing \$4500, and a church of the Methodist denomination. There is also a new Baptist church in the south edge of the township. The post office is called Grant, and has a daily mail. They have also a Masonic lodge and a flourishing cornet band in the township.

MORTON'S MILLS, in the same township, marks the location of another fine flouring mill by water power. It was first built in 1864, but rebuilt in 1876. It is a good three story frame mill, costing \$3000.



SHORTHORN FARM OF WAYNE STENNETT, NEAR STENNETT STATION.

to be impressed with the beauty of the landscape. Hawthorne has good elevators, lumber yard, store, blacksmith shop, school, and is now building a substantial Methodist church.

MILFORD, in the northeast corner, is one of the earliest settled points in the county, the first saw-mill being constructed there in 1856. The present mill superseded the old one in 1873-4, and cost \$15,000. It is operated by water power. A good creamery is there in operation, by Mr. Lonnecke, two general stores, post office, drug store, blacksmith shop, stone quarries, a good two-story brick school of four rooms, with a

SOIOLA is the capital of Washington, the center township of the east tier. They have a post office and a Baptist church erected in 1881, at a cost of \$1600.

COBURG, in Grant township, south of Red Oak, is on the Nebraska City Branch of the C., B. & Q. R. R. It is an important shipping point, has a good store, post office and school. Near Coburg Mr. Ed. Kretchmer is extensively engaged in bee culture and bee supplies. He manufactures and ships about four carloads of bee hives weekly, employing from fourteen to sixteen hands. He made 20,000 hives last year; seven tons of comb foundation, 550,000 sectional honey boxes, and

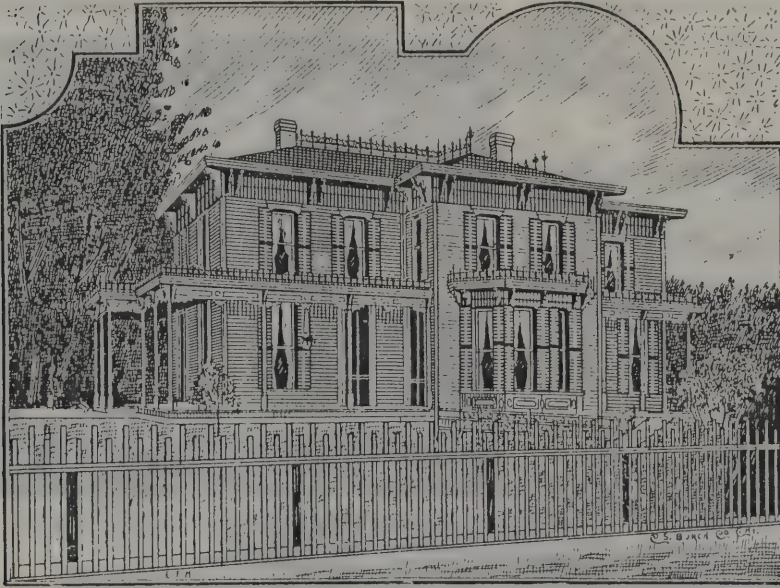




1600 smokers.

## RED OAK,

A Beautiful, Growing City of 4,500 People, Attracting Wide Attention for its



FARM RESIDENCE OF GEO. T. COOPER, LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

## PUSH AND PROMISE.

The Solid Foundation laid for a City of Manufactures and Wholesale Houses.

A NEW \$75,000 COURT HOUSE UNDER WAY.

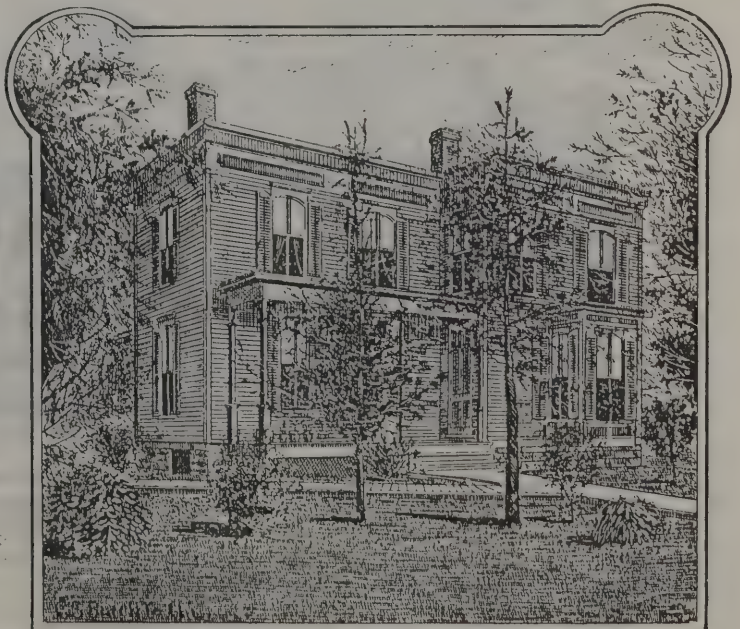
When it is remembered that only thirty years ago the tract of wild land which forms the site of this city was wrested from the domain of nature—the home of the Indian, the deer and the buffalo—its growth and speedy development into the busy, bustling, tidy and well kept city of to-day, must be classed among the phenomena in the way of Western city building, which open the eyes of the Eastern people.

### LOCATION.

The original county seat, named Frankfort, was located five miles east and one mile north of the site of Red Oak, in 1854, on the upland prairie; but it must have been upon the principle of “natural selection” and the “survival of the fittest,” that in 1864 the citizens of the county placed the seal of their approval upon the site of Red Oak for their county capital. It was laid out in 1857, on the east bank of the Nishnabotna, in a valley of the river so picturesque and attractive to the eye that it has never ceased to be

an active source of gratification to the residents of thirty years. Its outline includes the broad and nearly level bottom lands, fertile with the river alluvium, bounded by the long curving sweep of the hillsides, while to the south and east of the city the rise is more bold and precipitous, partaking of a bluff nature and appearance. These prominent elevations afford unexcelled locations for sightly residences and grounds from which the valley views open out like a picture. The distinction which Red Oak bears in this respect, from most level lying Western prairie towns and cities, is the subject of much comment on the part of visitors to our city, and the exclamations of its natural beauty are frequent and sincere.

The city comprises a tract of 940 acres. The river runs through its western edge. The main line of the C., B. & Q. Railroad passes through it on the south, and the depot is in the southwest part of the city. A view of the railroad grounds, elevators, etc., is shown on the cover. A street railway connects the business and residence part of the city with the railway station. The city has an attractive park in the centre of the business part of town, containing a musical pavilion, from which the Red Oak Cornet Band discourses excellent music on the summer



FARM RESIDENCE OF A. T. GEORGE, SHERMAN TOWNSHIP.





evenings. A view of the park is also shown. Another park on East Hill, in the residence part of the city, is called College Square.

#### THE CITY SCHOOLS

are described in another place, and engravings of the four school buildings are shown in this book. Few

and other denominations have societies organized. Prominent among the churches is the Methodist, a large brick structure, erected in 1874-5, at a cost of \$22,500. The society has 275 members, while the Sabbath-school has 225.

The Baptist church is an attractive frame structure



SHORTHORN FARM OF THOS. WALL, NEAR ELLIOTT. (FROM PHOTOS BY MORAN).

cities of double the population can boast better buildings or better facilities for education. The four public schools of Red Oak are a matter of pride to its citizens and are guided and guarded with zealous interest.

#### THE CHURCHES

of the city are, with the schools, its twin virtue and pride. There are eleven church edifices in Red Oak,

of modern style, built in 1887, at a cost of \$8,000. The Congregational church is a commodious structure, and a fund of \$4,000 has just been subscribed to remodel and refurnish it according to the best and latest ideas of church architecture. The Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, Christian, German Evangelical, Swedish Methodist, Swedish Lutheran, Catholic and Episcopal







FARM RESIDENCE OF C. W. CLAYMAN, SHERMAN TOWNSHIP.

denominations also, have good church homes.

#### THE CIVIC SOCIETIES.

Red Oak has a wide repute as a "lodge town," and it must be a fellow of a rare order who does not meet with a fraternal grasp and welcome among its live citizens. The

#### MASONIC ORDER

was represented in Red Oak as early as 1861, by Red Oak Lodge, No. 162, and has had a chapter R. A. M. since 1870—Montgomery Chapter, No. 57. In 1878, Bruce Commandery, No. 34, was established, and all are in a flourishing condition. In 1882 the fraternity erected Masonic Block, an imposing double brick block, shown in this work. The hall rooms of the second floor are occupied by them, while the store rooms of the first floor are used by the J. H. Merrill wholesale grocery.

#### THE G. A. R.

was also one of the early organizations of the city, one post being formed immediately after the war,

in 1867. The present post was formed in 1881, and is a strong working post.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER ODD FELLOWS.

Red Oak City Lodge, No. 176, was organized in 1869, and in 1875 Valley Encampment, No. 76, was organized. The Odd Fellows have a large and strong membership of 70, and a commodious well appointed hall. The order also has Canton Red Oak, No. 14, or the military rank of the order.

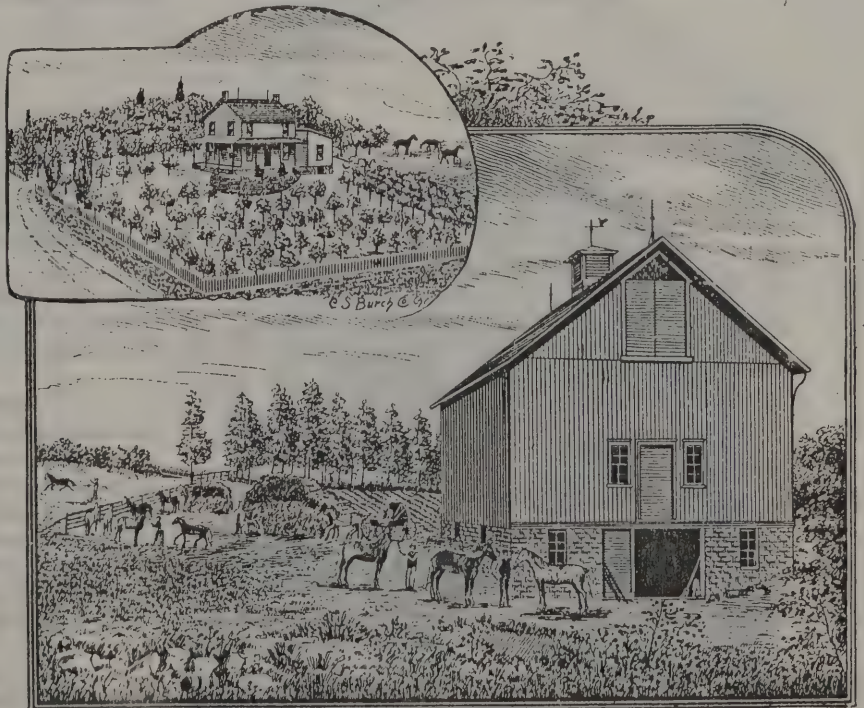
#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Laramie Lodge, No. 152, was instituted in Red Oak, January 21, 1885. It has attracted large numbers of the young men, and Red Oak is known as a city strong in the knighthood. In 1887, Red Oak Division, No. 24 U. R., was instituted with a large membership, and has a well uniformed and well drilled rank. The lodge has a membership of

65 knights, and is full of work.

The city has also active organizations A. O. U. W., Modern Woodmen, W. C. T. U., Knights of Honor.

#### THE CITY ORGANIZATION



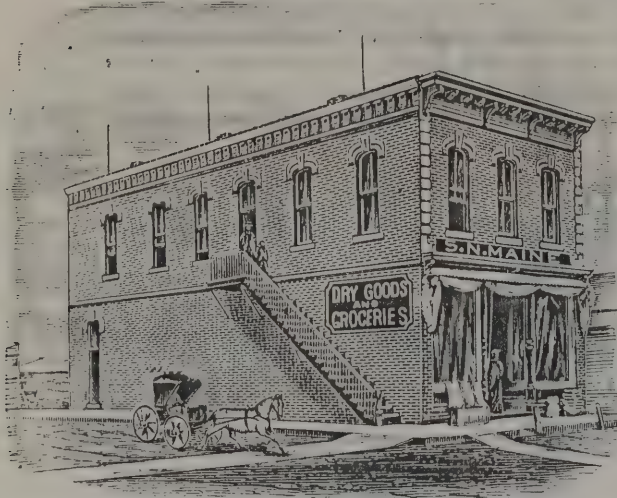
ORCHARD STOCK FARM OF C. T. FORD, SHERMAN TOWNSHIP.





consists of a mayor, board of six aldermen, city clerk and treasurer.

#### THE FINANCES



MAINE'S BLOCK, ELLIOTT.

of the city are in good condition, the only indebtedness being some \$20,000 bonds issued for the water works system, at 5 per cent., which are being paid in advance of their maturity, public improvements are in constant progress. The work of grading and perfecting the streets and parks being now actively pushed.

#### THE CITY GAS WORKS

have been in operation about eight years, and supply the city with a good quality of illuminating gas, at fair rates.

#### THE CITY WATER WORKS.

In 1880, the city put in a first-class and complete system for water supply. Water is supplied from wells made near the Nishnabotna River, a half-mile above the city, and is forced by the Perkins system of water works through more than six miles of mains, supplying all demands for water for residences, lawns, fountains, water motors and for fire protection. The system cost \$30,000, and has a capacity of one million five hundred thousand gallons per day. Forty hydrants are distributed through the city and the efficient

#### VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

is well supplied with three hose carts, two thousand feet of hose, hook and ladder trucks and all the approved conveniences for the speedy suppression of fire. The department comprises three companies with sixty-five members; its efficiency is best attested by the fact that it has never let a fire escape beyond the building in which it originated. It is in charge of J. B. Bishop, chief; J. J. Andrus, assistant chief.

#### CO. K, STATE MILITIA,

is one of the most interesting organizations of young men in Red Oak; it comprises forty members, who maintain regular drill. They own a good

armory building, are supplied with the Springfield forty-five calibre rifles, and have just ordered fine new uniforms to cost \$700.

#### BRUCE COMMANDERY BAND

was first organized in 1875, as the Red Oak band; re-organized in 1884, under the present name in honor of the commandery of Knight Templars of that name. It comprises fourteen members, who, with an efficient drum major, form the finest band in Southwestern Iowa, and is perhaps the most famous band in the state. They are elegantly equipped with uniforms and instruments, and give weekly out-door concerts during the summer months.

RED OAK BUILDING AND SAVING ASSOCIATION, organized December, 1887, has an authorized capital of \$1,000,000. The shares have a \$200 value at maturity. There are four series in existence, aggregating 700 shares. The association is very prosperous, having about \$15,000 loaned, almost wholly to persons who have thereby been enabled to build themselves homes. It is realizing to all members 20 per cent. per annum on their total investment.

#### THE CITY OPERA HOUSE

is a structure creditable to the city. It was built in 1881, at a cost of \$20,000. It is a three story brick block, 45 x 112, shown among our engravings. The auditorium has a seating capacity of 1000. It has a

1937061



BANK OF ELLIOTT.





24 foot ceiling and 24 x 28 foot stage.

#### THE THREE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

of the city are above the standard of western journalism, and enjoy a wide reputation through the state.

The Red Oak *Express*, Republican, is a clean seven column quarto, edited with an ability and success which are the product of many years experience and intelligent study, by C. W. Snyder, president of the South-western Iowa Press Association. It is published by a

prosperity of this paper, and its crisp new job department evidence the growth of the city and county.

#### THE LEGAL FRATERNITY

of the city is highly creditable to it. The Red Oak bar has supplied an attorney general of the State, judges of the district bench, and has among its practitioners disciples of Blackstone abundantly able to care for the growing legal interests of the city and county.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES, VILLISCA. (FROM PHOTOS BY PROCTOR.)

High School.

Baptist Church.

Methodist Church.

West Side School.

Presbyterian Church.

Christian Adventist Church.

Catholic Church.

joint stock company, and its job department, in charge of Charles P. Sheffer, is fully equipped.

The Red Oak *Sun*, Democratic, by Messrs. Boll & Clark, is a nine column folio, filled so full of the county news that leads are dispensed with and minion type used. Their paper and job work are up to date, and reflect great credit upon their city.

The Red Oak *Independent* is a comparatively new journal, conducted by Messrs. Osborne & Murphy. The

#### THE MEDICAL PRACTICE

is represented by eleven physicians, a fair quota, the general healthfulness and freedom from epidemic diseases being considered. There are two veterinary physicians and three dentists.

#### BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

The Valley Bank was first organized as the Bank of Red Oak, by H. N. Moore, in 1870. It was reorganized as Valley National Bank in 1875, and in 1884 the charter





was given up and the private bank reorganized, with H. N. Moore, president. It has a capital of \$50,000. R. O. Newell is now cashier.

Iowa, and the house enjoys a wide and enviable reputation for prompt and square dealing.

#### THE HOTEL FACILITIES

are good. Hotel Johnson is a large three story brick structure, conducted by Wm. C. Lockhart. It offers good entertainment to visitors to the city; comfortable airy rooms and an appetizing table.

#### THE CENTRAL HOUSE,

located, as its name would imply, in the very heart of the business part of the city, is presided over by Mr. Kapsen, an experienced and successful host.

#### DEPOT HOTEL.

Among the institutions enjoying a favorable repute among the traveling fraternity is the large and well-conducted Railroad Depot Hotel, conducted by Hutchinson & Abell.

There are also in Red Oak the Arlington House, Red Oak House, Farmer's Hotel, O. K. House, and other well established hostleries.

#### OTHER BUSINESS INTERESTS.

The fact that the retail trade has not, in the West, become settled in certain lines of traffic, and fixed in the hands of some established firms, has inclined men to engage in it more readily and more generally than in older parts of the country, so that the retail business is far in advance of any lines of manufacturing or shop work. The demands of the retail trade of Red Oak are, generally speaking, fully met by its local business houses. There are eleven groceries, three carrying queensware, two bakeries and restaurants, six restaurants and lunch counters, six dry goods, three hardware and tinware, five implement dealers, three harness factories, two furniture stores, one including queensware and undertaking; three boot and shoe factories, three



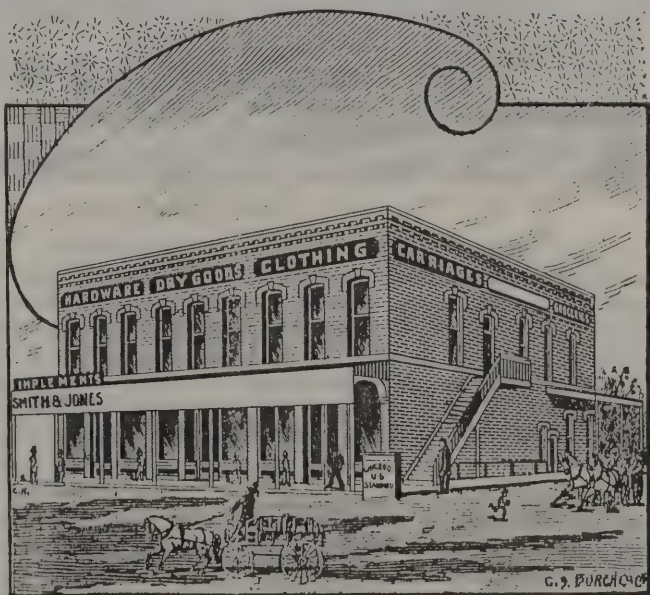
FIRST NATIONAL BANK, VILLISCA.

*First National Bank* was organized in November, 1873, as an outgrowth of a private bank organized in June of the same year, by F. M. Byrkit. It has a paid-up capital stock of \$50,000, and a surplus of \$50,000. Its present officers are F. M. Byrkit, President; A. C. Hinchman, Vice President; Chas. F. Clark, Cashier. The bank is located in its substantial brick business block, shown on page 11, which was erected in 1874.

*Red Oak National Bank* was organized in 1883, with a paid up capital stock of \$100,000. It has now in surplus and in dividend profits \$20,000. Its officers are Justus Clark, President; Ben. B. Clark, Vice President; Paul P. Clark, Cashier. This bank has a new and very elegant bank building, shown in this work.

#### THE RED OAK INVESTMENT CO.

This institution was the outgrowth of a private business, built up from January 1, 1876, by Messrs. C. W. Spaulding, John Hayes and Edward Hayes. The company was incorporated February 15, 1888, with \$100,000 paid-up capital stock, and April 1st, 1889, the capital stock was increased to \$200,000. The gentlemen above-named are managers. They have loaned \$1,303,100, chiefly in Southwest



BOINE'S BLOCK, VILLISCA.





clothing houses, one hats, caps and gloves; three drug stores, two books and stationery, four jewelers, four meat markets, three merchant tailors, two marble works, one notion store, three milliners, one music store, two lumber yards, four liverys, three coal yards, two elevators, two temperance billiard halls, four barbers, one bath room, five blacksmith shops, one wagon factory, three dray lines, one buss line, one creamery, two abstractors, nine real estate and loan, five insurance agents, seven contractors and builders, three painters and decorators, one green house, two plumbers and gas fitters.

WHOLESALE HOUSES.—GROCERIES.

*J. H. Merrill & Co.*—This is one of the widest known

Bros. seven years ago but transferred to the present firm two years ago. The active management is in the hands of Mr. A. McConnell with Mr. Lamb in charge of the books; Dr. Hatton is not actively engaged. The territory embraces about sixty miles square, reaching into the edge of Missouri, and is covered by traveling salesmen every fifteen days. They handle a general line of groceries, provisions, wooden ware, notions, cigars and tobaccos. They are doing a business of \$150,000 annually—a figure which is rapidly increasing. They employ seven persons.

*Hardware.*—W. W. Marshall, who conducts a retail establishment, is building up a good wholesale business in binding twine and general hardware.



CITIZEN'S BANK, VILLISCA.

and most substantial houses in Iowa. It has been established more than thirty years, although the Red Oak house was started but five years ago, when its general manager, Mr. M. N. Spencer, opened the establishment in the large double brick masonic block, shown on page 10 of this work. The house, through local and traveling salesmen, covers the blue grass region of Southwestern Iowa thoroughly, and it is a rare order that gets away from the wide-awake manager. All lines of groceries, wooden ware, dried and canned fruits, cigars and tobaccos are included.

*McConnell, Hatton & Lamb.*—This large grocery house was the first wholesale establishment inaugurated in Red Oak, and is one of the oldest and best established in Southwest Iowa. It was organized by Moriarty

BRICK AND DRAIN TILE.

In the materials for this product Red Oak is fortunately provided, having not only an inexhaustable supply of brick clay, but an abundance of the best quality of potter's clay and of fire clay. Already two extensive establishments for the manufacture of brick and tile are in operation, those of W. H. Close and R. E. Cook. The product will figure up almost a million brick for the present season.

CROCKERY AND POTTERY.

In addition to the brick kilns, Mr. W. H. Close has maintained for more than sixteen years, at Red Oak, a pottery and crockery establishment. It has gradually developed in size and importance, until at the present time fourteen men are employed, who produce an







VILLISCA ROLLER MILLS.

annual product of 150,000 gallons of stoneware, 500,000 brick and 200,000 feet of tiling, which are distributed throughout the markets of Southwestern Iowa by three traveling salesmen. Two views of Mr. Close's pottery are shown herein. In addition to the usual product, he is manufacturing a square paving brick from fire clay which is bound to make for itself an enviable reputation.

*Gunn's Glove Factory.*—This is one of the industries of which Red Oak is proud, illustrating as it does the wide range of manufacturing possibilities for this region. It was established by Mr. Dan Gunn five years ago, in connection with his hat store. He employs thirty-three hands the year round, and cuts up over six hundred deer skins monthly. Three traveling salesmen place the product over most of Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska.



WEST SIDE BUSINESS BLOCK, VILLISCA.





ska, Colorado, Wyoming, and parts of Illinois and Kansas. The business is rapidly increasing having multiplied three times during the past year. The factory makes a glove named the "brakeman" involving two features patented by Mr. Gunn, and its popularity is attested by the fact that five hundred dozen are almost constantly sold ahead.

*National Slate Manufacturing Company.*—This is an industry just being established in Red Oak, and one which promises to assume large proportions. A perfect quality of slating and blackboard composition is manufactured at rates which are beyond the competition of real slate. The surface is perfect, the cleansing easy and the durability endless. The process was patented

#### CITY ROLLER MILLS,

by J. A. Hysham, were established about twenty years ago by William Kerryhard. About four years ago it was entirely remodeled, the interior being replaced by a complete Alice roller mill machinery. It is a steam mill and from top to bottom everything is new and of the most approved pattern for fine work. It is considered as complete a mill as exists on the slope.

#### THE RIVER ROLLER MILL,

two miles north of Red Oak, is conducted by Wm. Clark & Co. It has a full system of the Ellis Roller Process, 8 sets, with 75 bbls. daily capacity.

#### BAUMHOVER'S MILLS,

a mile southwest, is also a first-class water mill, fitted



RESIDENCE OF CHAS. J. WEST, RESIDENCE OF AMOS P. WEST, RESIDENCE OF ALBERT P. WEST.

only last November, but already a strong company is incorporated and the manufacture undertaken on a large scale. The company occupies a building 60x120 feet on Read and Second Streets, where its furnaces and moulding tables present a busy scene. The slates are a half inch thick and of the same material all the way through, are made in any size and are perfectly adapted for use as school and house blackboards and all kindred purposes. Some of the most pushing and wide-awake business men of Red Oak are back of the enterprise. The product will be handled both through the wholesale school furniture houses, and directly from the home office. The officers are Dr. D. F. Hallett, President; O. J. Gibson, Secretary; Paul Clark, Treasurer.

with the roller process.

#### NOVELTY WOOD WORKS.

Mr. E. W. Updike, who has been engaged in contracting and building in Red Oak for 18 years, established three years ago the Novelty Wood Works, which he has fitted up thoroughly for wood working by machinery. The shops, which are shown on page 15, contain a substantial steam engine, planer and sticker, circular and scroll saws, lathes, etc. He will soon add sash, door and blind machinery, and a larger (24-inch) planer. The works have every promise of material growth and prosperity.

#### CARLETON'S SCENERY HOUSE.

For four years Mr. Robert Carleton has been building up an establishment of this character in Red Oak





with marked success. His specialty is painting secret society scenery, banners, etc. At the present time he and his assistants are turning out from three to five

branch at Red Oak, in charge of J. D. Avery, Gen'l Manager, and P. L. Stanley, Local Manager. The firm

has, during the first six months of 1889, handled 8,584 cases of eggs, or 257,520 dozen, or 3,090,240 eggs. They have also bought and shipped during the same period 235,878 pounds of butter.

#### FURTHER FACTORIES WANTED.

Among the urgently needed business enterprises in Red Oak are a

*Pork-Packing House.*—Fifty-five thousand hogs were shipped from this county last year. Favorable railroad laws make this as desirable a point as any for such a house.

*Canning Factories* will find here a natural location.

*Sorghum Sugar Factories* will receive the most substantial encouragement.

*Broom Factories* can find no location in the Union better adapted to successful work.

*Foundries and Machine Shops* are wanted.

*Extensive Boot, Shoe and Harness Factories* should be established in this fertile region.

*Creameries and Cheese Factories* are needed, to use to the best advantage the large milk product.



COTTAGE HOTEL, VILLISCA.

hundred dollars worth of scenery, weekly. His skill in this line is extending the reputation of his work over many states,—orders taken by traveling salesmen are constantly awaiting execution, and the work must be seen—by the initiate—to be appreciated.

**BROWN'S FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP** is a young and growing institution of the city. In addition to general work in his line, Mr. Brown is manufacturing patent emery wheel stands and a patent corn stalk cutter. On the second floor A. Abbott manufactures buggies and carriages. He turns out some of the finest quality of work to be obtained.

#### KELLY'S WIRE AND LATH FENCING.

Mr. Charles Kelly is turning out large orders of this variety of fencing, and is building up a line of manufacture always in demand in this agricultural region.

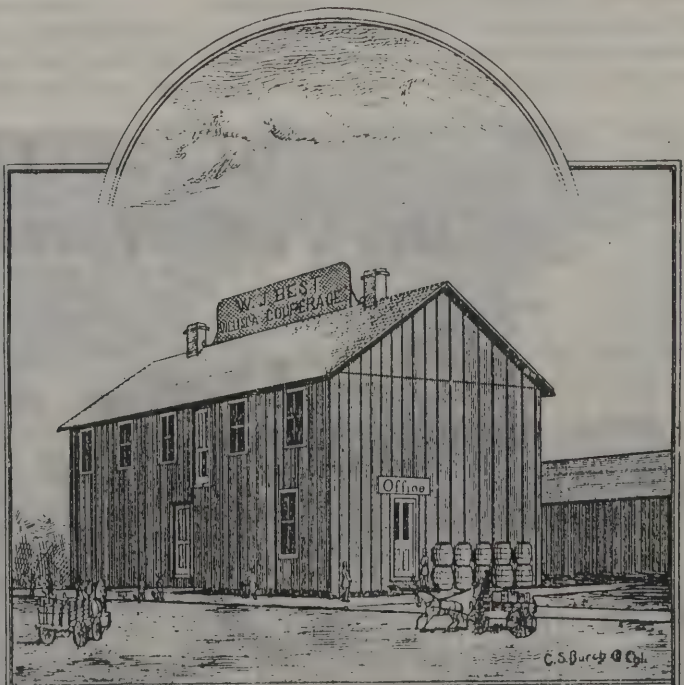
#### A. DEHART & CO.,

manufacturers of carts, buggies and light wagons, have been in business under the present firm only one year. They have manufactured three hundred road carts in addition to a number of buggies and light wagons, and the business is growing rapidly.

**THE RED OAK BOTTLING WORKS** is another well established institution, making large quantities of the popular summer drinks of a temperance nature.

#### FREMONT BUTTER AND EGG CO.

This extensive house has established a



BEST'S COOPER SHOP, VILLISCA.





Many other lines of industry are not yet fairly represented in our midst, and all inquiries directed to Sec'y O. P. Worsley of the Board of Trade, will receive

population is over 2200. The site of the city is on a point of land sloping to the south, and situated between the Middle and West Nodaway Rivers. There is



VILLISCA FIRE DEPARTMENT.

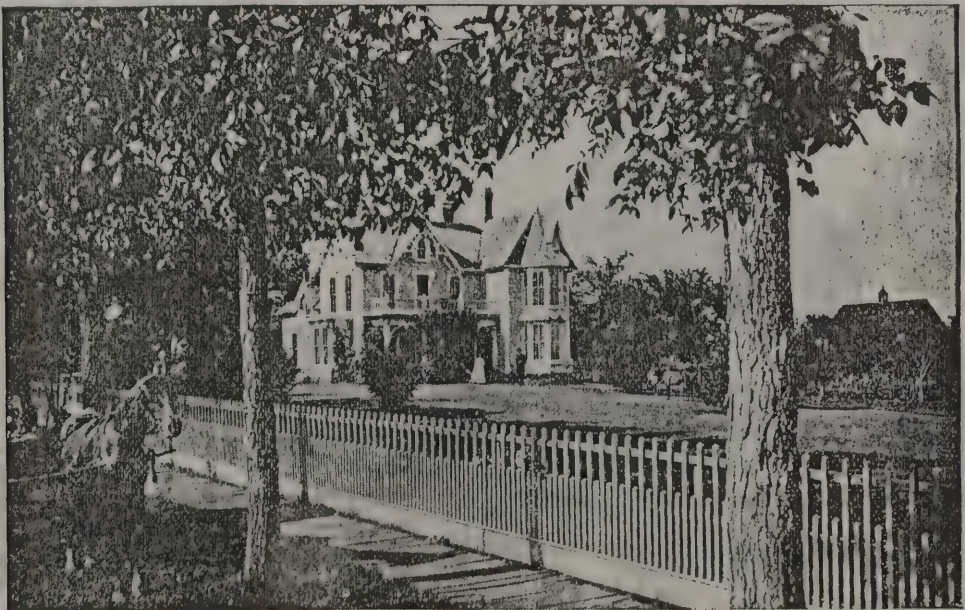
prompt attention.

Come and see our city and county, and bring your friends along. You will receive a hearty welcome.

VILLISCA (MEANING BEAUTIFUL VIEW).

The city of Villisca is situated in the extreme southeast corner of Montgomery County, and near the corner of the counties of Adams, Taylor and Page. Its

a natural slope and drainage to the south, east and west, which renders the site one of the healthiest in this part of the State. The streets are wide, dry and cleanly kept. Malaria is unknown, and there is comparative little sickness. It is acknowledged by travelers that the natural advantages and location of the city are far superior to any other on the line of the



RESIDENCE OF DR. D. W. JACKSON, VILLISCA.







RESIDENCE OF HON F. P. GREENLEE, VILLISCA.

"Q," by reason of its gentle and gradual elevation and slope.

The view from the north part of the city embraces both the Nodaway valleys, as far as the eye can reach. The West Nodaway valley extends north and south, and the Middle Nodaway valley from northeast to southwest. These valleys are covered with beautiful homes and well cultivated farms, the two rivers being fringed with a growth of timber in all making a scene beautiful and entrancing to the eye of the beholder. In fact, this fertile valley so attracted the attention of the first settlers of the county that here they located and first made civilized homes within its borders. The location being in one corner of the county, there has been more rapid growth of the county seat near its center; but there is no more rich or prosperous section in Southwest Iowa than that immediately surrounding Villisca.

## STREETS.

The Town Site Company, recognizing the natural advantages of the location, adopted a liberal policy in platting the town, and increased its natural beauty by laying out broad streets and avenues, and large lots. All streets and avenues are from 80 to 100 feet in width, and lined with hardy and luxuriant shade trees, and the streets are always in excellent condition and will bear comparison with the streets and

drives of cities of greater population. On the five main roads leading into the city, and within three miles of the same, are located six first-class iron bridges.

## PARK.

In the center of the city is located the public park, of about two acres in extent, and enclosed by a neat and substantial fence. It is luxuriantly sodded with blue grass, and well shaded with a variety of native trees, which have now attained a growth of 13 years, having been planted on Arbor day, 1876, by the public spirited citizens of the city. In the center of the park is located a music pavilion, where open air concerts are frequently given by the city band, and is a favorite resort of the public for festivals and public gatherings of all kinds.

## RESIDENCES.

An unusual number of very fine and handsome residences will be found here, surrounded and in the midst of well kept grounds and lawns, with an abundance of fruit and foliage of all kinds.

## PURE WATER.



J. W. ELLENWOOD'S ARLINGTON MILLS, 6 MILES NORTH OF VILLISCA.

Our city is favored with an abundant supply of pure water, drawn from wells from 25 to 35 feet in depth,





the supply coming from a strata of clean gravel and sand, in most cases the water being soft.

#### NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

The two Nodaway Rivers, which form our east and west boundaries, carry a large volume of water, which can be utilized to furnish power for a vast amount of machinery at a small outlay. Already a large flour mill of 150 barrels capacity, and located one-half mile from the public square, is using power from the East Nodaway. This river also supplies the C., B. & Q. R. R. Co.'s watering tank.

#### FUEL.

Coal of an excellent quality, and in large quantities, is found along the Nodaway Valley, and so near the surface that the cost of mining it is small. The Carbon, Wilcox and other mines are located within a few

or reservoir, or direct pressure plan. The pump house and engine is located on the south end of the main business street of the city. The water is drawn from two large wells, which are fed by inexhaustible springs. Practically the water supply is without limit, as the wells can be extended to take in other adjoining springs. The water is pure and cold, and is pronounced by competent judges as wholesome, and possessed of some medicinal qualities. It is distributed over the city through mains, either by direct pressure of the pumping engine, or from a large tank situated on the highest elevation in the city. The pressure from either is amply sufficient to protect the city from fire. The water-works are largely patronized by the people generally, and the income from the water rents will soon make it self-supporting.



FOUR VILLISCA RESIDENCES AND GARDEN.

Residence of J. S. Boise, Jr.  
Residence of W. L. Shepherd.

Residence of Mr. Jones.  
Residence of Dr. L. J. Lynch.

miles of this place. Wood for fuel is abundant and cheap. Three-fourths of the timber of Montgomery County is located along the banks of the Nodaway Rivers. One or two saw-mills are in operation during a part of every year, furnishing a large amount of framing timber, posts and fencing.

#### FERTILITY OF THE SOIL.

It is conceded that the fertility and richness of the soil of the Nodaway Valley is unsurpassed in Iowa, a state famous for its rich soils and grazing lands. The state statistics show that the largest yield of corn and grass is in the Nodaway Valley region.

#### WATER-WORKS.

We have a system of water-works built on the cistern

The advantages of the water-works are supplemented by a well organized and efficient fire department, consisting of two hose companies and a hook and ladder company,—the apparatus all being first-class,—thus giving our people the benefit of good fire protection and lessening the cost of insurance.

#### RAILROAD FACILITIES.

Our city is situated at the junction of the Brownsville & Nodaway Valley R. R., on the main line of the C. B. & Q. R. R., 420 miles from Chicago, 65 miles east of Omaha, and 90 miles north of St. Joe, which makes our shipping advantages first-class, giving us access to the large markets of the East, West and South.

The railroad yards are already of large extent em-





bracing a number of sidings, in close proximity to which is a large passenger depot, freight house, cold storage room, and a round house, thus affording us excellent facilities for handling the large passenger and freight business at this point, and giving employment to a large number of R. R. employes and their families.

#### CHURCHES.

Our city is well provided with churches. We have the Baptist, Catholic, Christian Adventist, Methodist and Presbyterian Societies, all well housed in comfortable church buildings, and supplied with permanent pastors, who are zealous and energetic in their work. Views of the churches are shown herein.

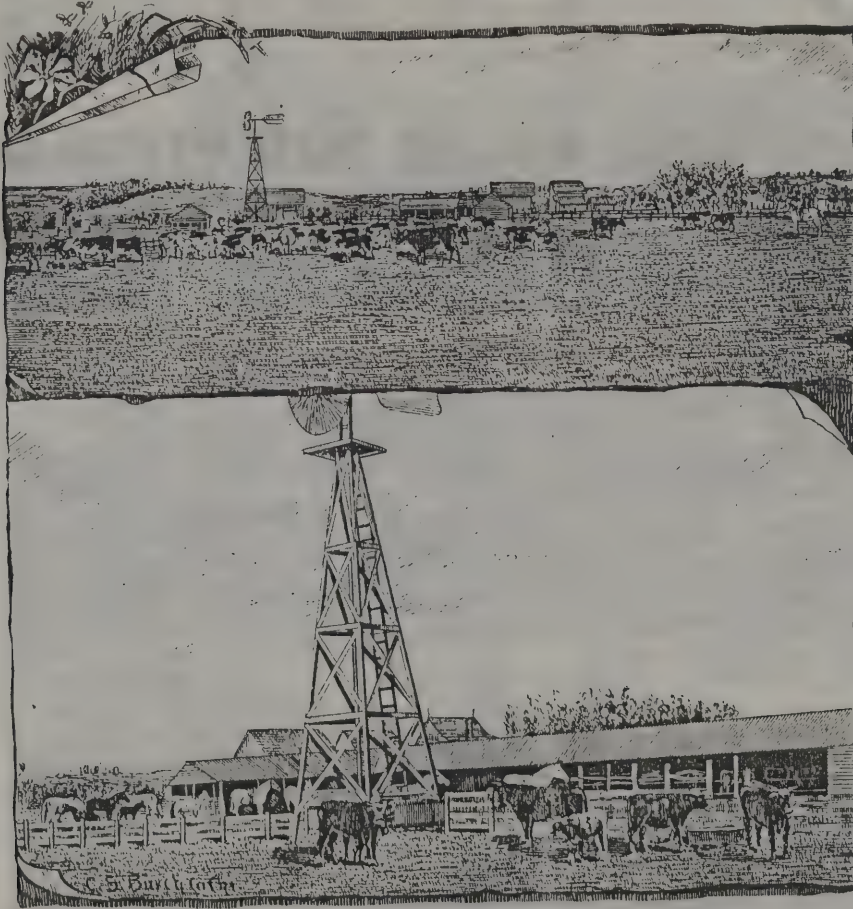
year from outside districts. The course of study, system of grading and high standard of scholarship keeps this school in the front rank of the best schools in the state. The annual expenses attendant on maintaining said schools is over \$6,000 a year.

#### SOCIETIES.

There are the following secret orders and other organizations represented here, in the order of their establishment:

*A. F. & A. M.*—This is the oldest fraternal organization in the city and has a large membership.

*I. O. of O. F.*—The lodge of this order was instituted here in 1871, and is in a flourishing condition.



MAJOR C. S. MERRIMAN'S STOCK FARM, ONE MILE FROM VILLISCA.

The Sunday schools, leagues, etc., usually connected with these churches, are here found in a flourishing condition.

#### SCHOOLS.

Our public schools are among the very best in Iowa, a state which has the lowest rate of illiteracy in the Union. Two large two-story brick buildings (one recently erected), are required to accommodate the 700 pupils of school age. The west school building has six large rooms, and is heated by steam. The east or high school building has five rooms and is complete with all modern improvements, and heated from hot air furnaces. A nucleus of a good library, geological cabinet and necessary apparatus for teaching the sciences, has been founded. The reputation of the high school is such as to draw to it from 50 to 75 pupils each

These two organizations occupy a very fine lodge room.

*A. O. U. W.*—Has a good membership, and its members are zealous in support of their principles.

*G. A. R.*—The post of this order has a very large membership, and numbers among its members many of the leading men of the city.

*K. of P.*—The lodge of this order was instituted in 1886, and has a large membership, and a very fine lodge room in the Citizens Bank Building.

*S. of V.*—The camp of this organization is composed of the younger element of the city, who are zealous in their work.

*W. R. C.*, as an auxiliary to the G. A. R. Post, is a power for accomplishing much good.

*W. C. T. U.*—This organization is enthusiastic in





disseminating the principles of temperance reform.

*U. R. K. of P.*—This division is finely uniformed, and is composed of members of the subordinate lodge.

*Rebecca Degree, of I. O. of O. F.*—This organization was instituted a short time ago, and its membership is very large and rapidly increasing.

*The Cemetery Improvement Association.*—This is composed of ladies, who have made wonderful improvement in our cemetery, and have manifested great taste and energy in their laudable enterprise.

ized for the purpose of erecting dwelling houses to supply the demand of tenements and newcomers. Their houses are neat, well built and constantly occupied.

*The Villisca Mutual Loan and Building Association* was organized in March, 1886, and is a very flourishing institution. Four series of stock have been issued, with over 1,300 shares of \$100 each subscribed for. Those of our citizens who are not the owners of their homes are regularly embracing the opportunities



FARM SCENE OF J. F. MOATE'S GALLOWAY STOCK FARM, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

*Board of Trade.*—This organization was effected for the purpose of advancing the interests of our city; it is composed principally of our leading business men, who are enthusiastic in all that tends to the advancement of the blue grass region, and has already accomplished much good through its various committees. J. S. Boise, Jr., is the Secretary, and he is ever ready to give information relative to immigration, manufactures, any public enterprise or industry for this city or its vicinity.

*Villisca Improvement Co.*—This company was organ-

ized for the purpose of erecting dwelling houses to supply the demand of tenements and newcomers.

*Company B, Fifth Regiment I. N. G.*—This is one of the crack military organizations of the state, having been successful in carrying home prizes from the several state encampments. They are also the owners of the opera house, in which is located their armory.

*The Southwestern Band* is a musical organization that we can refer to with pride. It is composed mostly of young men who have made very rapid progress in attaining a high degree of proficiency; they have a fine





and serviceable, and their services are always in demand.

The Villisca Fire Department is a volunteer organization, uniformed and well equipped with first-class apparatus for extinguishing fires; they exhibit a commendable interest in their calling, are prompt to respond when duty calls and are ever ready to enter the list as contestants.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The Villisca Review was founded in 1871. It is now published by C. K. Kennedy, is a six column quarto paper, and Republican in politics.

The Villisca Independent was established in 1880 by H. R. Gregory, its present proprietor. It is independent in politics.

The Villisca Letter was founded in 1888 by Gardner Bros., its present publishers. It is Democratic in politics.

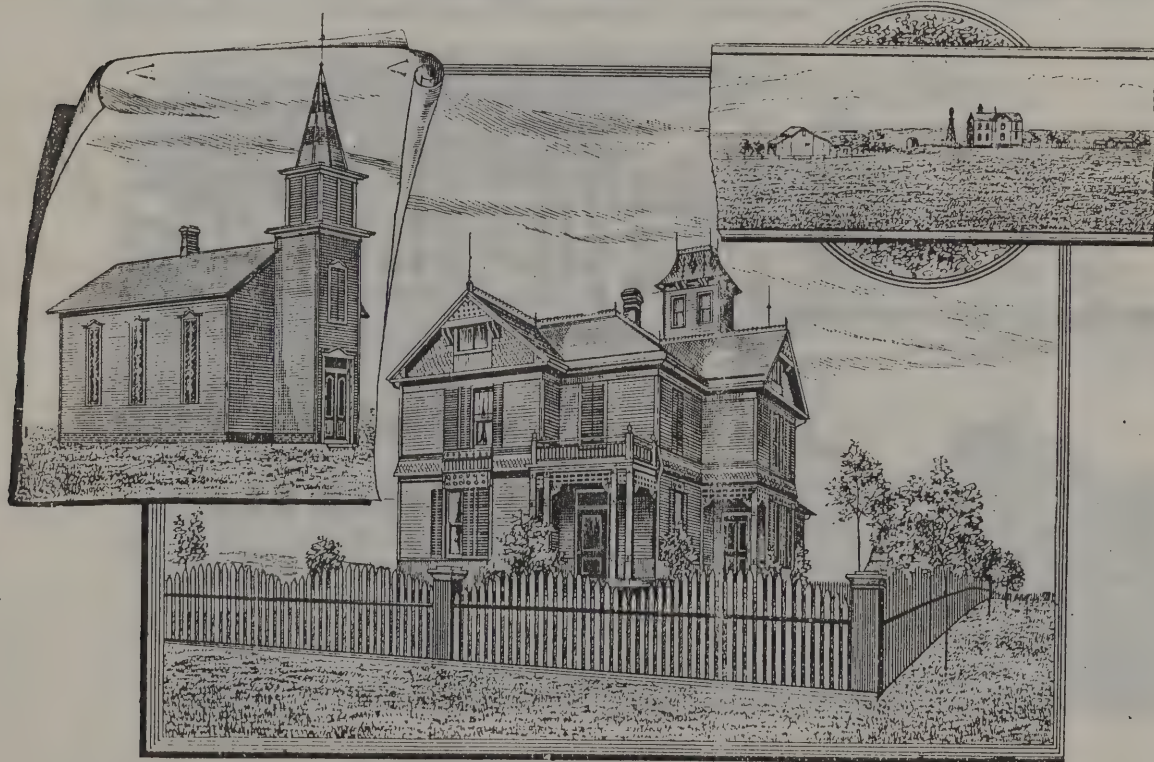
every man, and is an enterprise which has caused the growth of a large dairying interest in this vicinity.

**Cooper Shops.**—(One of the rising young industries of this place is the cooperage works of W. J. Best. He has just completed a large two story building as an addition to his shops. He has a large and rapidly increasing trade, and is supplying dairies and creameries in this and adjoining localities.

**Fence Factory.** C. E. Jenkins & Son are manufacturing a woven wire picket fence, which meets with a very ready sale. They employ a number of hands.

**Foundry.**—The Villisca Foundry and Machine Repair Shops of A. Paulus, are well equipped with engines, lathes, drills, &c., for the building and repairing of all kinds of machinery, and are prepared to make castings of any kind. He is filling orders for several patterns of wrought iron fences.

**Brick Yards.**—We have two brick yards, located in



J. W. KIMEL'S FARM AND HOME, 12 MILES NORTH OF VILLISCA.

#### PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS.

The Villisca Roller Flour Mills, T. A. Ritchie, proprietor, are shown in this book. It is arranged for either steam or water power, is equipped with the latest and most approved flour-making machinery; and, being conducted by an experienced miller, is doing a most successful business, drawing its trade from the four counties. It has a capacity of 75 bbls. per day, and consumed 55,000 bushels of wheat, chiefly native grown, in 1888, showing that this valley will grow bread as well as blue grass.

The Villisca Creamery is an important factor in the industrial life of the city. The plant originally cost the company \$6,000. It is owned and run by a stock company, and is fitted up with first-class appliances for making gilt-edged butter. It has been in successful operation for the past eight years. It is now under the management of J. B. Rose, an experienced cream-

the extreme southern part of the city; one managed by J. B. Smith, which has been in successful operation for the past six years and has supplied the city and surrounding country with brick of good quality. The other yard was started a few months ago by F. P. Tyler, who is turning out a superb quality of brick to supply the constantly increasing demand.

**Lumber Yards.**—The Rand Lumber Co. and the Green Bay Lumber Co. have a very large and complete stock of lumber and building material of all kinds, and are supplying a very extensive territory in the four counties. A number of hands are employed in both yards.

**Villisca Cold Storage House.**—This establishment is under the management of J. B. Rose, and handles a large quantity of eggs and poultry. The building is a commodious two story structure, and built at a great expense for the purpose of storing eggs and poultry for an indefinite period.





**Elevators.**—The two steam elevators of W. W. Ellis & Co. and Dolson & Cowl are well prepared with all facilities for handling and sorting grain.

**Fruit Culture.**—Several parties here and in the surrounding territory are engaged in this industry, prominent among which are S. H. Redmon and William Lewis, both of whom are extensive raisers and shippers of small fruits, besides supplying the local demand. This climate is well adapted to all small fruits, as well as apples, plums, grapes, &c. There are several large orchards in this vicinity from which there are annually shipped large quantities of apples to the Western markets. This is a favorable locality in one of the best fruit-growing states in the Union, the fruit being large and of a superior quality.

#### STOCK INTERESTS.

This is one of the best shipping points in southwestern Iowa, as evidenced by the number of those engaged in shipping and feeding stock. Being located

showing that our farmers are deeply interested in their grade of horses.

#### PROFESSIONS.

The names in the following lists are given in the order in which they commenced business in Villisca.

The legal profession is represented by F. P. Greenlee, W. H. Redmon, E. C. Gibbs, J. S. Jackson.

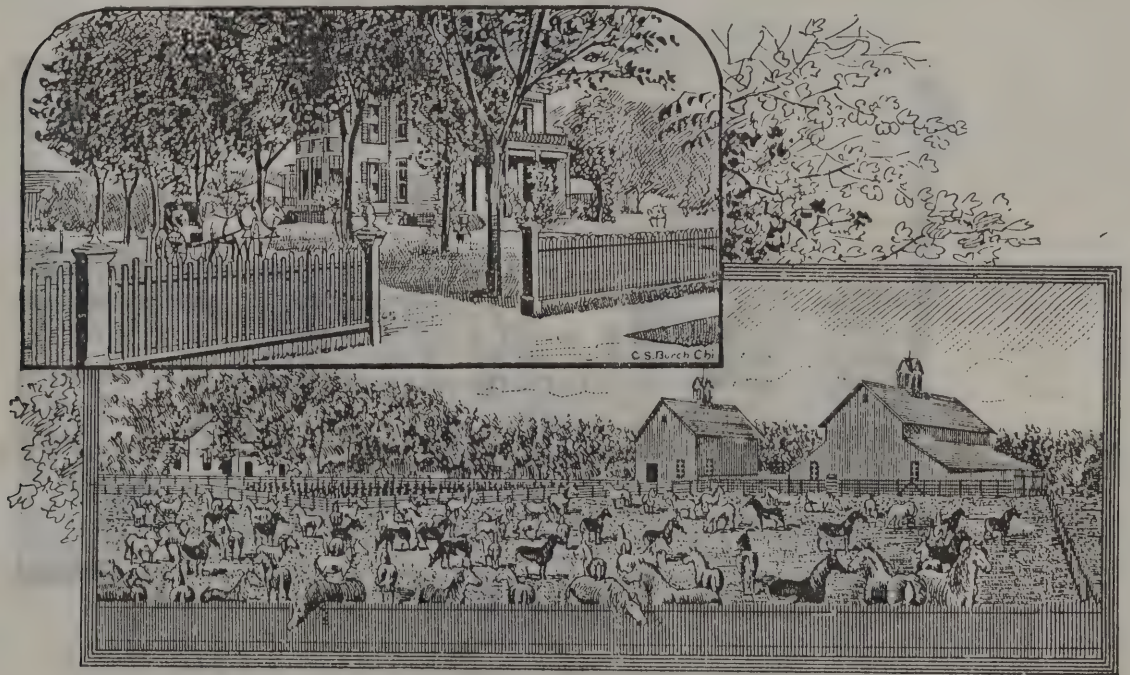
The medical profession by Drs. F. Cooper, M. N. McNaughton, D. W. Jackson, Mary Johnson, J. Gallison, E. L. Kerns.

The dental profession by Dr. Geo. E. King.

#### REAL ESTATE, LOANS AND INSURANCE.

This class of business is represented by W. A. Woodward, M. S. Thurman, E. C. Gibbs, West & Dolan, Howland & Jackson.

These gentlemen will be glad at any time to give any information to inquirers regarding prices and location of lands, etc.



CITY RESIDENCE AND FARM OF W. N. MCNAUGHTON, M D., VILLISCA.

in the very heart of the blue grass region and where the heaviest yields of corn are found, the advantages of stock raising are unusually good, and our nearness to the great markets enables our farmers to receive the top prices for their stock. Stock from this locality always grades with the best in the stock yards of Chicago and Omaha. Prominent among the shippers in this city are R. M. Campbell, C. H. Hall, J. I. Bunker and John Landers.

#### HORSES.

This vicinity has a good reputation for its fine bred road and draft horses, and is the headquarters for buyers for the Eastern markets. Several of our residents are engaged in raising high grades of horses, prominent among which are W. W. Ellis & Co. and Dr. M. N. McNaughton, both of whom have large farms adjoining the city specially adapted to the purpose. In this immediate vicinity there are a large number of imported Cleveland Bays, Percheron and Clyde horses

#### BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

We can refer with pride to the two banking institutions of this place.

The First National Bank Co., in 1882, erected a large two-story brick bank building on the northwest corner of the Public Square, the basement and second story of which is used as offices, while the first floor is used by the bank in which to conduct their business, and is well furnished with all conveniences and improvements for this purpose. Their capital stock is \$50,000, and the officers as follows: President, W. S. Alger, Cashier, B. F. Fast.

The Citizens Bank is a private institution, with Amos P. West as president, and Charles J. West as cashier; their capital stock is \$50,000.

This institution is located in a very large two-story brick building, erected by the bank in 1883, on the southwest corner of the Public Square. The first floor is used by the bank in which to transact their business,





while the balance of the building is used for stores and offices.

Both of these institutions enjoy to the fullest extent the confidence of the community, and have been important factors in the development of the business interests of the city. The constantly increasing deposits show a prosperity on the part of our merchants and farmers.

#### BUSINESS HOUSES.

Our city is well supplied in most lines of business as the following list will show:

The hardware and implement business is the most prominent, and the close competition and low prices have secured a large patronage from the four counties. They carry all the standard makes of farm machinery, wagons, carriages, etc.

One firm handles agricultural implements and vehicles only.

Four firms deal in shelf and heavy hardware, agricultural implements, farming tools, buggies, wagons and

We have two notion stores, and one exclusive book and stationery store.

We have also two barber shops, with bathing conveniences attached.

Three millinery stores are located here, whose stock of goods and styles will compare favorably with those in larger cities.

We have three large livery and feed stables.

There is one confectionery, restaurant and bakery, also four restaurants, who are doing a prosperous business.

There are four hotels, which supply the wants of the traveling public.

There is one very large furniture and house furnishing establishment, which occupies a larger floor space than any like establishment in the four counties.

We have two blacksmith and wheelwright shops with power attachments.

There are three good harness shops managed by practical workmen.



FARM RESIDENCE OF THOS. CAMPBELL ESTATE, NEAR VILLISCA.

carriages. Three of these firms do a tinning and plumbing business.

The dry goods trade is well represented by five firms, their stocks of goods are very large and a higher grade than is usually found in a city of this population.

There are two exclusive clothing and gents furnishing stores, who also do a merchant tailoring business. There are four other firms who also handle clothing in addition to other lines of goods.

There are eleven firms who are engaged in the family grocery business, and they all carry a well selected stock of goods which are sold on close margins.

We have two very finely appointed drug stores, which also carry a fine line of paints, oils, wall paper, curtains and fancy goods.

Three meat markets supply the local demand.

One firm deals exclusively in boots, shoes, hats and caps, and these lines are carried by several other firms in addition to other stocks.

The jewelry business is represented by two large and enterprising firms.

Our two photograph galleries are in the hands of experienced artists.

There are from eight to ten carpenters who are engaged throughout the year in filling contracts in the city and surrounding country.

We have from three to five painters, sign-makers and paper-hangers who are almost constantly employed; also from three to five brick and stone masons.

There is one exclusive merchant tailor who employs several hands.

There are three shoe shops where the making and repairing of boots and shoes are conducted.

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST.

The prices of farms are reasonable, considering the many advantages offered to the settler, such as nearness to the markets, productiveness of the soil, and the variety of crops that can be raised.

This region has never undergone the experience of a spasmodic boom, but its growth has been gradual, healthy and continual, and not beyond the limits of its actual demand.





## OUR ILLUSTRATIONS

NOT OTHERWISE MENTIONED.

### G. W. HOLT, FURNITURE AND CROCKERY.

This large establishment, shown among our engraved blocks, has been in operation for nineteen years, growing up with Red Oak from a village to a live, bustling city. The business occupies the whole of the block, 45x75 feet, and includes a finer and more complete stock than is often found in large cities.

### THE ECLIPSE RESTAURANT AND BAKERY,

whose elegant dining parlors are shown in this work, is a house that would be creditable to Omaha or Chicago. The business was established six years ago by E. W. Bromley; Mr. R. B. Hall joined the firm in February last, and it was moved to its present commodious quarters in the Red Oak National Bank block. The house employs eleven people, and puts out 2,500 loaves of bread a week.

ORCHARD STOCK FARM of C. T. Ford, of Sherman Tp. The foundation of the speed-horse stock for which this farm is well known was Kate Morgan, bought 27 years ago at Iowa City—a full Morgan and a fine type. He bred her to Stonewall Jackson (by Mambrino's Chief), and from the offspring, Mamie, his stable of trotters has sprung. He has four daughters, nine granddaughters, two sons and one grandson. They all partake strongly of the original type. From the strong development of bone, he named the oldest stallion "Bones"—a fine black shading into brown underneath. Mr. Ford has inbred this stock with excellent results. One foal, Bonnie, has produced Bonnie-Westmont, by Sperry's Westmont (2:24)—a bright bay two-year-old of perfect loin, chest and forearm. Another promising young stallion here shown is Rysdick's Mambrino, a two-year-old, dark chestnut, with silver mane and tail—a son of Mamie, out of Traveler. Another fine yearling is Topsey's Almont, by Bryson's Almont. Mr. Ford also has two Guelph fillies and one male by Guelph, dam Mamie. He has also a fine Redwald filly, which has a double cross of Mambrino Chief in the dam, a double cross of Harold and Alexander's Abdallah.

Another feature of Orchard Farm is the 17 acres of apple trees,—1,400 in number,—from which Mr. Ford shipped three car-loads of apples in 1887.

T. D. THOMAS' FRUIT FARM consists of five acres, in East Red Oak, finely located on a commanding rise of ground. Mr. T. is a Welshman, who has been nine years in this country. He is one of the large and prosperous colony of Welshmen of Lincoln Township. He built up a fine farm there, but recently retired to the present home. The fruit grounds contain five acres. One acre of it is in Snyder blackberries, which, at the time this is written, promise to yield 150 bushels of the luscious fruit. There are also raspberries, strawberries, cherries, apples, crabs, plums, pears and peaches—all bearing fruit this summer.

GEO. T. COOPER'S farm residence is a representative residence of one of the prosperous farmers of northern Montgomery County. He is a West Virginian by birth,

moving to Illinois in 1867, and to this county in 1875. He is a practical enthusiast in blue grass, and a fore-handed farmer.

S. N. MAINE'S business house represents the headquarters of a large and growing business, which has been built up during the past ten years, at Elliott, by an Ohioan who believes in this country.

### RESIDENCE OF THOMAS GRIFFITH, RED OAK.

Mr. Griffith is a native of England, coming to this country in 1865. He located in this county in 1869, and built up one of the finest farms in the county. He subsequently engaged in real estate business, and has acquired a handsome fortune. He is now in Paris, France, where he represents the State of Iowa as Commissioner to the International Exposition.

The residences and farm views of B. F. RUNNELS and S. T. RUNNELS represent two leading stock farms of western Montgomery. They are Licking County (Ohio) people, and are wide-awake, thorough-going farmers.

G. W. BUCHANAN, whose 320-acre fine stock farm is represented, is a Pennsylvanian, who has lived in Iowa since 1851, and in this county since 1882. He is a genial, broad farmer.

RICHARD HODGSON has been making a success of general farming and stock-raising on his farm, as will be seen from the view.

JONAS HECKERT started his farm from the raw prairie, and in 18 years has brought it to a fine state of perfection. The quarter section has 7,000 forest trees and 300 bearing fruit-trees, small fruit, grapes, etc.—a model quarter-section farm, which can be bought.

LONGVIEW STOCK FARM, of Mrs. J. M. Taylor, two miles west of Red Oak, 225 acres, is operated by A. C. Taylor and Ed. M. Murphy. It is finely stocked with Shorthorns, Poland China hogs, etc.

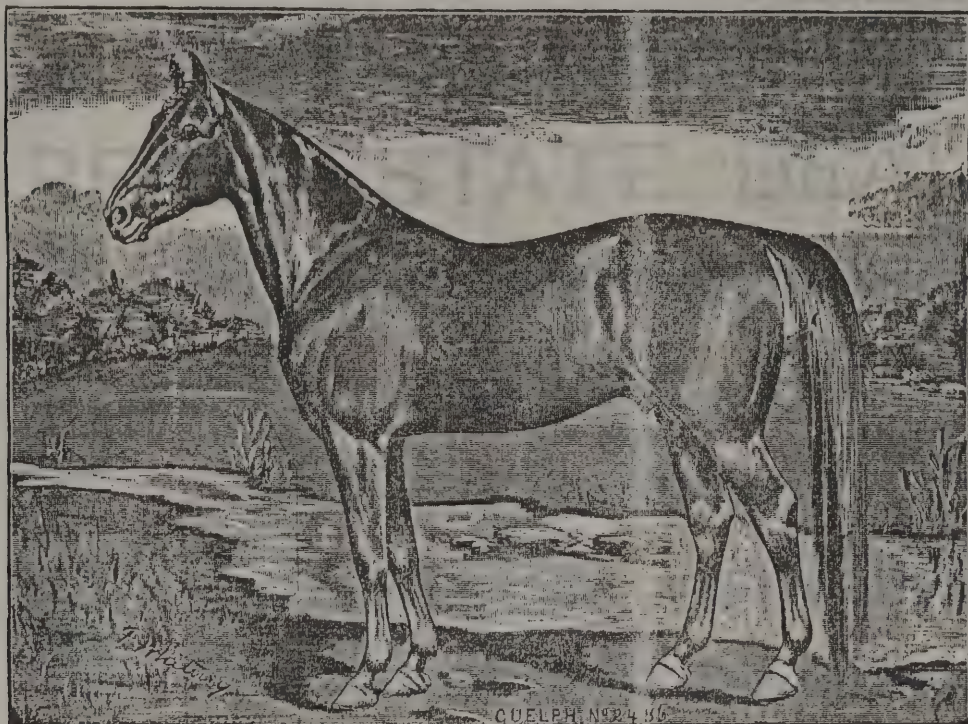
C. G. ATWOOD located on his farm near Red Oak in 1875, and, with the assistance of his son-in-law, conducts a fine stock farm of considerable notoriety. He is a New Hampshire man, and resides in the city.

RESIDENCE OF HON. F. P. GREENLEE, Villisca, is the product of a young man who located here a poor boy in 1872, and, by energy and ability, has risen in his profession to an enviable rank. He represented the county in the State Legislature two years since, and has an extensive practice.

FARM RESIDENCE OF THOS. CAMPBELL ESTATE.—This is a representative farm, lying two miles east of Villisca, consisting of 165 acres, seeded down to blue grass, excepting 50 acres under cultivation and 15 acres native bur-oak timber. Like most Montgomery County farms, there is an abundance of fruits of all kinds. The stock is supplied with running water. There are large barns, with basement, cribs and buildings, Fairbank's standard scales, etc. The death of Mr. Campbell will cause the sale of the property.







THE STANDARD TROTTER "GUELPH," 2:30; TRIAL, 2:28½.  
PROPERTY OF A. T. TURNEY & SON, BED OAK.







S. A. HENRY.

O. J. GIBSON.

# HENRY & GIBSON, REAL ESTATE DEALERS AND INSURANCE.

All Classes of City and Farm Real Estate in Montgomery County  
and the

**BLUE GRASS BELT.**

Correspondence is Solicited from all Parties Interested.

**FARMS BOUGHT AND SOLD ON REASONABLE TERMS.**

Address, **HENRY & GIBSON, RED OAK, Iowa.**

## I Have the Following Farms For Sale:

One of 336 acres splendid land, good residence in fine grove, four barns and other improvements, all in cultivation mostly in meadow; one of the best farms for successful raising of Horse, Cattle, Hogs or Sheep in this region. Cheap at \$28.00 per acre.

One of about 200 acres, two miles from Missouri Valley, Iowa, 23 miles from Omaha and Council Bluffs; bottom land, soil from 10 to 12 feet deep; house, barn and other improvements. Cheap at \$25.00 per acre.

One of 160 acres, four miles from Grovitz Station, all in cultivation, house, barn, etc., etc. Price, \$25.00 per acre.

To any one requesting further information, I will send full description together with maps, plats, photo, etc., etc.

**M. M. STODDARD,**  
VILLISCA, IOWA.

**E. C. GIBBS,**  
**LAW AND LAND,**  
VILLISCA, IOWA.

**F. P. GREENLEE,**  
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,  
Examiner of Titles and Notary Public,  
VILLISCA, IOWA.



**A. T. TURNEY & SON,**  
Breeder of Fine Stock,  
PROPRIETORS  
River Park Breeding Farm,  
**RED OAK, IOWA.**  
The Breeding of Fine Trotting Stock a Specialty. Write for Catalogue.



C. J. GIBSON

B. A. HENRY

HENRY & GIBSON,

REAL ESTATE DEALERS

AND INSURANCE

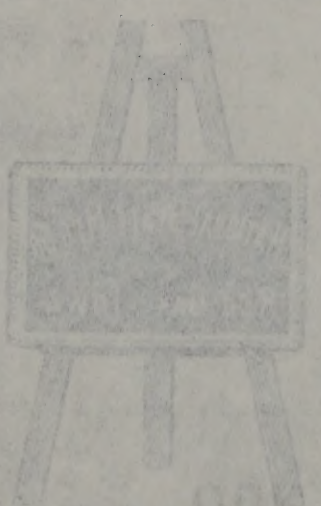
All Classes of City and Farm Real Estate in Montgomery County and the

BLUE GRASS BELT.

Correspondence is Solicited from all Parties Interested.

FARMS BOUGHT AND SOLD ON REASONABLE TERMS.

Address, HENRY & GIBSON, RED OAK, IOWA.



I Have the Following Farms for Sale:

One of the most desirable farms for sale in this section is a 100 acre farm, well improved, with a large house, barn, and other outbuildings. It is situated in a good location, and is well adapted for farming. The price is \$10,000.00.

M. M. STODARD,  
VILLISCA, IOWA.

E. C. GREENLEE,  
LAW AND LAND,  
VILLISCA, IOWA.

F. P. GREENLEE,  
VILLISCA, IOWA.

Attorney and Counselor at Law,  
VILLISCA, IOWA.







